CREATED BY LEIJI MATSUMOTO
BASED ON THE OPERA CYCLE BY RICHARD WAGNER

Der Ring des Nibelungen

SIEGFRIED

7

Leiji MATSUMOTO
松本零士

A manga series originally
inspired by
Der Ring Des Nibelungen,
an opera in four parts
composed by Richard Wagner
(1813 – 1883)

Volumes 1 – 8
translated and adapted
by Richard E. Mandel
from the French language version
released by Kana Press

Volumes 9 – 10
re-edited and adapted
by Richard E. Mandel
from the original English release
on the old Shinchosa web site
(www.shinchosa.co.jp)

Introduction by Richard Mandel

To my knowledge, this is the first time that anyone has attempted to bring Leiji Matsumoto's *Harlock Saga* manga series to English speaking audiences. It is certainly the largest and longest manga translation project I have ever undertaken myself.

This is a first draft of my personal translation that I have used in my various Leijiverse researches. It is based on the French language version published by Kana Press in 2002. A "reverse translation," if you will. I translated it using *Power Translator* computer software, then rewrote all of the pidgin English that the computer spit back out into something an English-speaking person could actually read, understand, and enjoy. As such, it is more of an adaptation than a translation, and not very accurate in more places than most of us might care for -- but it gets the job done. I hope it suffices until someone who can speak and read the native Japanese comes along to do a more accurate rendition. Someone had to be first in doing this, and it may as well have been me.

I have taken the liberty of "streamlining" my English adaptation for the sake of those readers not familiar with the Leijiverse in general and the mythos behind this story. Whole chapters of dialogue have been rewritten as a result, and a dozen or so graphic panels which I believe are incorrect have been altered or replaced with alternate ones. Hopefully these editorial changes on my part will help clear up some of the confusion experienced by earlier readers of this work, who got to experience it in the original Japanese. I apologize in advance for any errors or mistakes I might have made during this process.

Siegfried

Ring 44 ; Fire Dragon

ONLY A HANDFUL HAVE EVER SURVIVED AN ATTACK ON THE "PIRATES' ISLE" -- AS SPACER'S SLANG CALLS ALL OF THE WANDERING ASTEROIDS BELONGING TO THE HARLOCK FAMILY LINE. THEY MAKE NO DISTINCTION AMONG ANY OF THEM, AND WITH GOOD REASON; FOR FEW HAVE HAD THE STOMACH FOR SECONDS, AND OF THESE, NONE SURVIVED. THIS TIME, THE DEATH SHADOW ITSELF JOINS THE DEFENSE, AND GREAT HARLOCK HIMSELF IS AT THE HELM ....

NO LOSER LIKES TO ADMIT IT. LEMME SEE IF I CAN GET THIS NEW THREAT ON THE SCREEN.

YOU'D THINK WOTAN WOULD GET TIRED OF US BEATING HIM EVERY TIME HE'S TRIED TO DEFEAT US.

LET'S SEE WHAT'CHA GOT, AND IF YOU'RE WORTH IT!!!

COME TO DADDY, YOU BIG STARSHIP, YOU!!!

REMINDS ME OF WHAT I TRIED TO TELL THAT BOY OF MINE. THE BIGGER YOU BUILD 'EM, THE BIGGER TARGET YOU'RE-A BUILDIN'.

WELL, WELL. THEY DON'T BUILD 'EM SMALL FROM WHEREVER THESE BOYS ARE FROM, DO THEY?

PERHAPS THAT'S THE WAY THEY BUILD THEIR SHIPS IN THE FIRE DRAGON GALAXY, TOSHIRO.

THEIR GALAXY OR OURS, IT'S STILL TOO GODDAMN BIG FOR ITS OWN GOOD!

OKAY, DOWN TO BUISNESS ... LENGTH ABOUT 1200 METERS, BEAM ABOUT 440 METERS, HEIGHT ABOUT 620 METERS, ENERGY DISTRIBUTION ... SAME FOR A SHIP ONE-THIRD ITS SIZE. HMM ... THAT'S WIERD.

LEMME GIVE IT TO THE COMPUTER AND SEE WHAT IT CAN CONSTRUCT FROM THESE VISUALS.

IF THAT'S THE FRONT, HOW NASTY IS THE BACK?

THAT'S WHY THE COMPUTER DIDN'T RECOGNIZE IT. NO SHIP LIKE THIS EXISTS IN ITS DATABASE. WE'RE THE FIRST EVER TO SEE IT.

AAAAHHH!!! EVOKES THE METANOIDS, BUT THIS BABY IS QUITE A DIFFERENT BEAST.

JUDGING FROM THE READINGS, I'D SAY A SPIROID GRAVITON REACTOR. KINDA LIKE MY BOY'S ENGINE, BUT CRUDER.

ANY IDEA AS TO PROPULSION?

HMMM ... SO YOU'RE SAYING THIS IS A REAL SUNNUVABITCH OF A SHIP WE'RE UP AGAINST.

IN SHORT, THEY'VE GOT POWER AND TO SPARE FOR WEAPONS AND SHIELDS.

IF WHAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT THE FIRE DRAGON GALAXY IS TRUE, THOUGH, THESE GUYS MAKE THE METANOIDS LOOK LIKE PANSIES IN DRAG.

I DIDN'T SAY THAT. DON'T PUT WORDS IN MY MOUTH.

12 HOURS TOPS. ASSUMING THEY MAINTAIN THEIR CURRENT SPEED.

HOW LONG BEFORE THEY GET HERE?

WHAT IS IT? IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE SHIP?

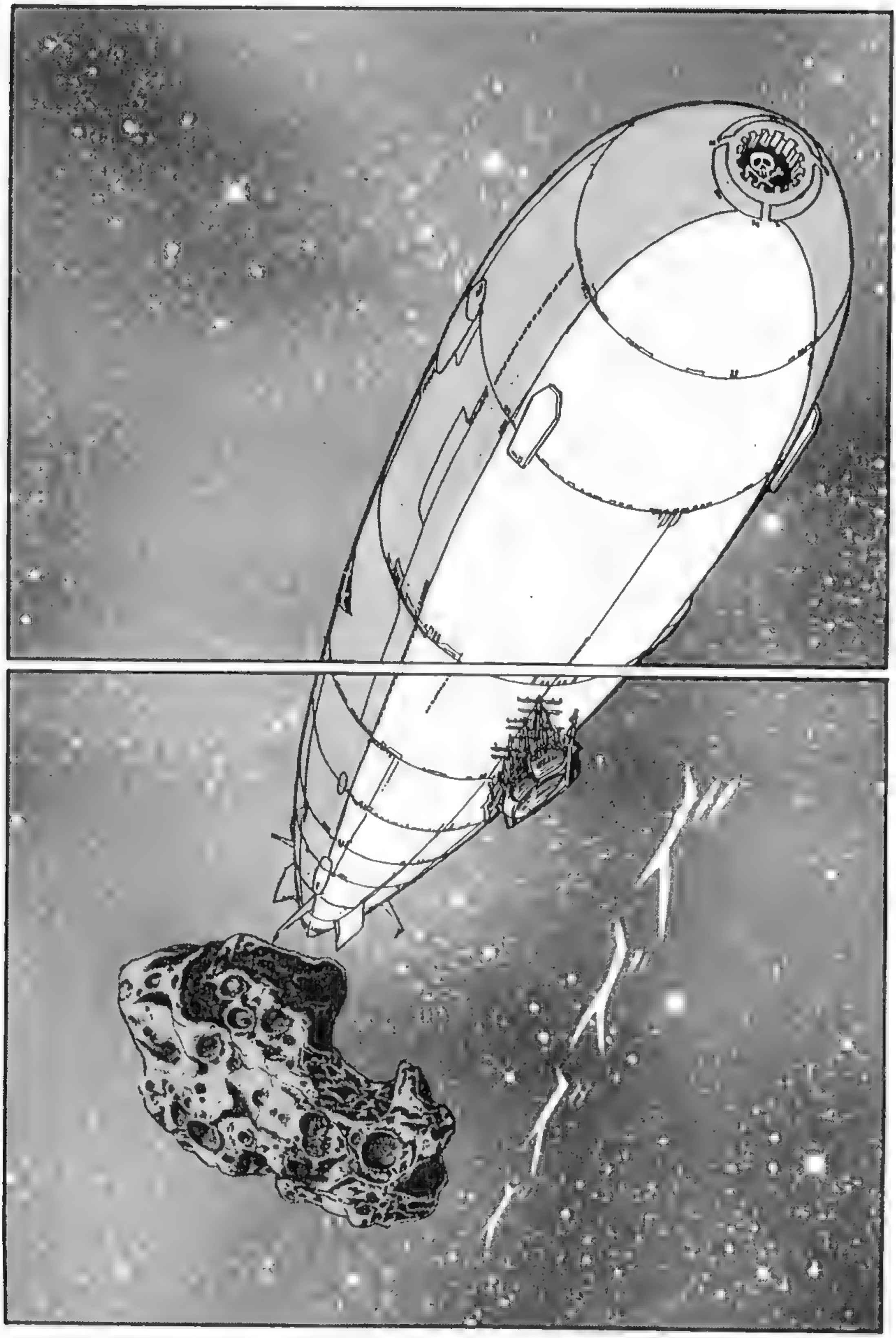
HELLO ... I THINK WE NEED TO FIX ANOTHER PROBLEM WHILE WE WAIT.

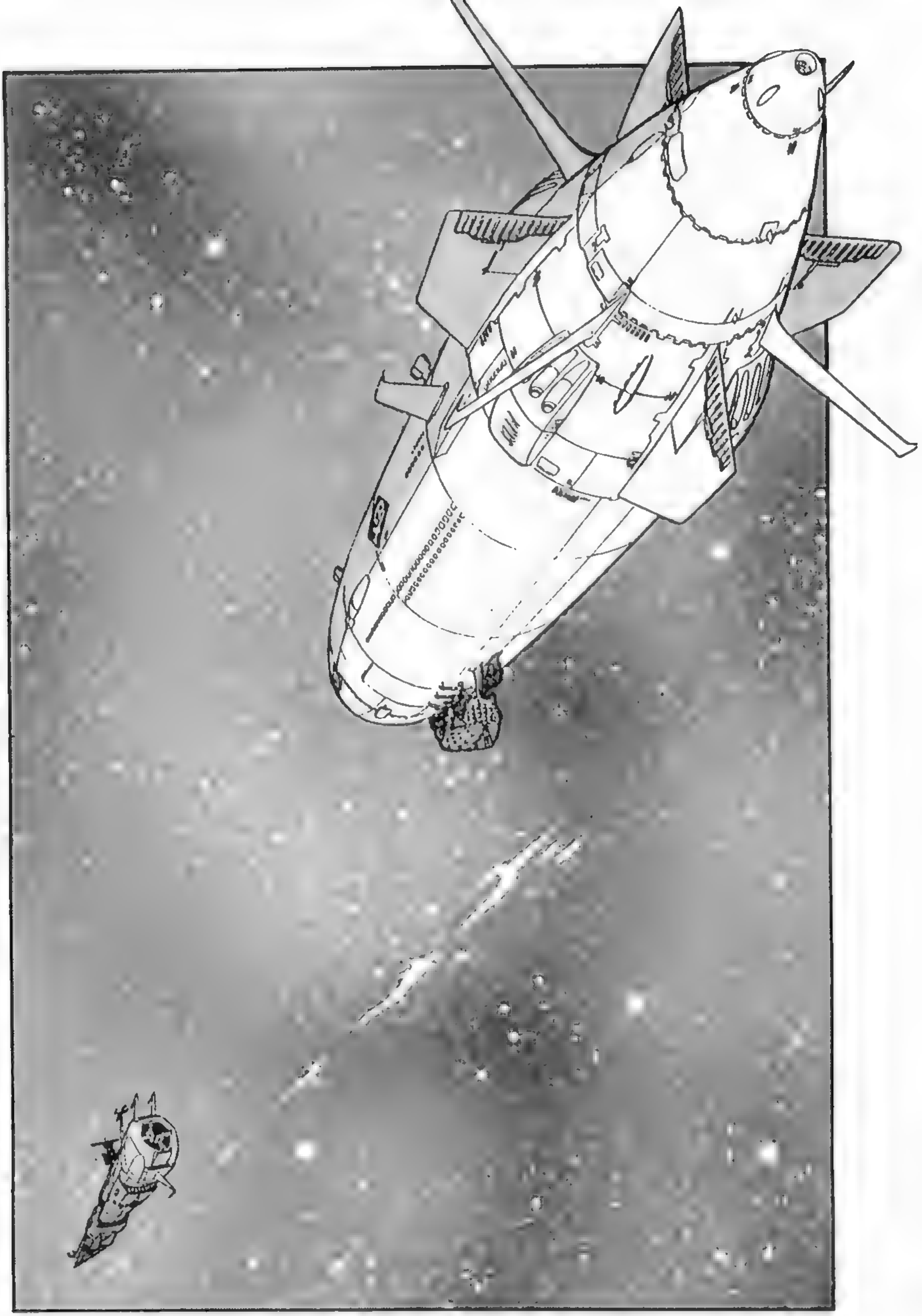
I ... SEE WHAT YOU MEAN ....

NO. TAKE A LOOK BEHIND US.

WHAT DO THEY THINK THEY'RE DOING?!

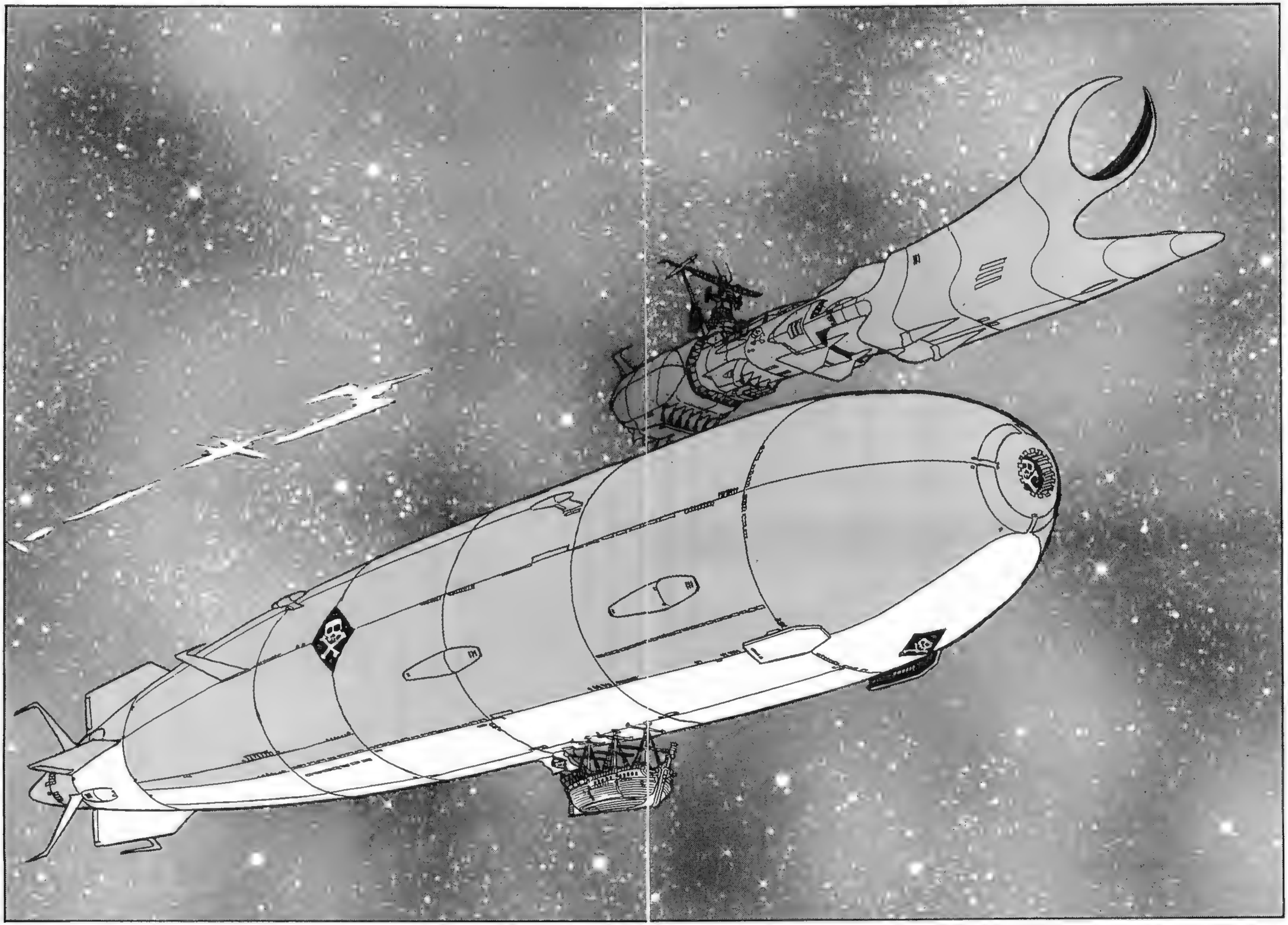
JOINING THE FIGHT, IT LOOKS LIKE.





HE NEEDS HELP, WHETHER HE ADMITS IT OR NOT, AND WE'RE THE ONLY HELP AROUND! NOW BE QUIET, MAETEL!

... BUT SISTER, YOU MIGHT OFFEND GREAT HARLOCK, EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T ACCEPT HIS NOBLE EFFORT TO PROTECT US! HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF THAT?



WE CAN HOLD OUR OWN ... AND THE VALKYRIES WILL PROTECT POOR FREYA AT ALL COSTS.

PERHAPS HAS NOT REALIZED THAT THE BOTH OF US HAVE SEEN MANY BATTLES IN THE TIME THAT HAS PASSED SINCE OUR LAST VISIT.

DEATH SHADOW! AHEAD FULL!!!

THE DEATH SHADOW ACCELLERATES TOWARDS ITS FOE, MISTRESS.

YOUR DAD'S GOT A LOT TO LEARN IF HE THINKS THE DEATH SHADOW CAN OUTRUN THIS SHIP, TOCHIRO!

MISTRESS ... BE ADVISED THAT UNTIL MY REPAIRS ARE DONE, MY ENGINE CAN RUN ONLY AT 30% OF FULL POWER. THAT IS NOT ENOUGH TO POWER ALL OF MY MANY WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

I ALSO CAN NOT ACCELLERATE AS FAST AS I MIGHT. SHOULD THE DEATH SHADOW PICK UP SPEED, I WILL BE UNABLE TO KEEP UP WITH IT.

AND THE ANCIENT SHIP, TOO? THIS IS GOING TO GET INTERESTING BEFORE IT IS DONE.

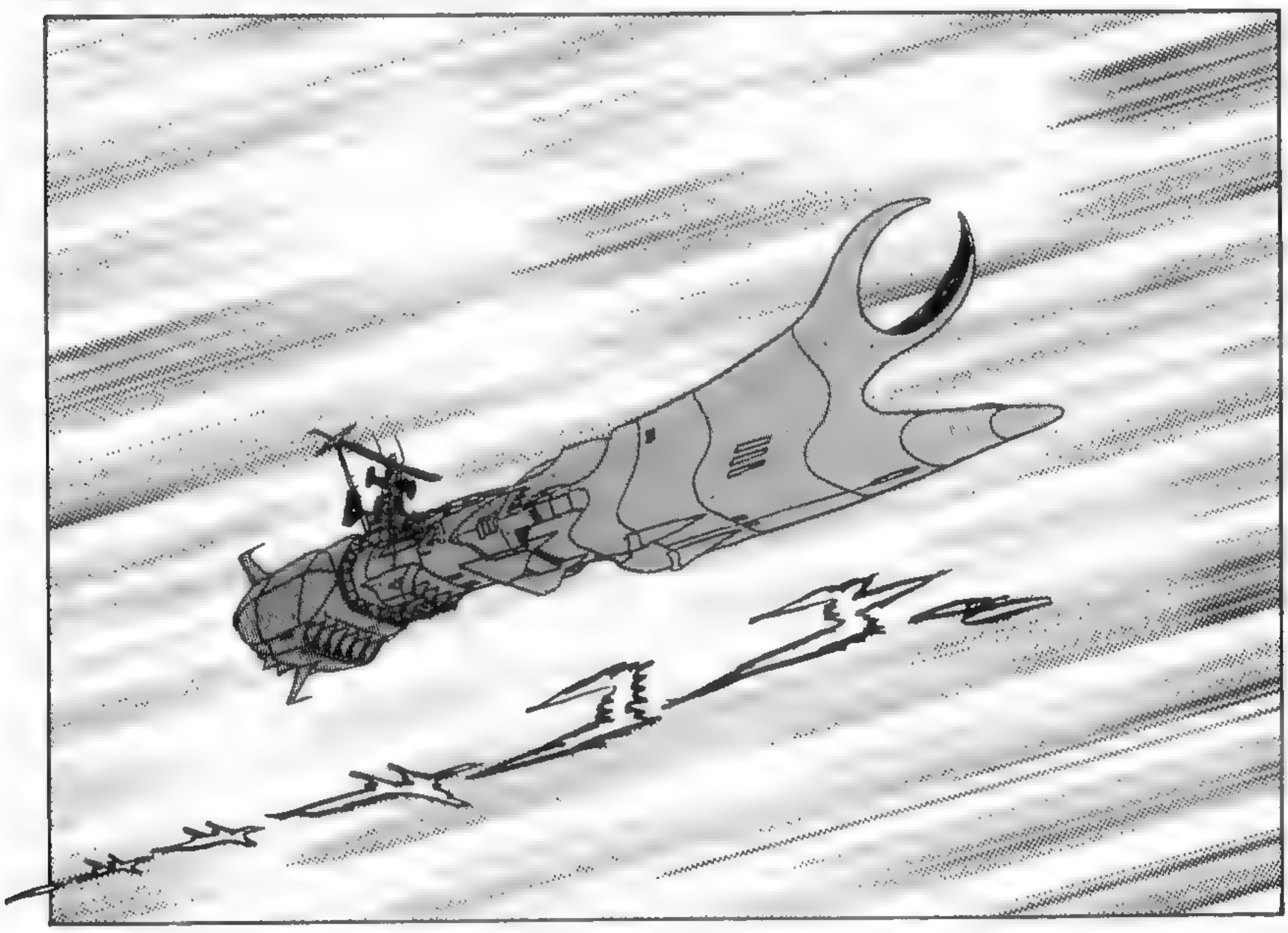
SO GREAT HARLOCK HAS ANSWERED MY CHALLENGE. "COME INTO MY PARLOR," LITTLE MONKEY! SEE HOW A GOD MAKES WAR!

THEY WOULD CHEW YOU UP AND SPIT YOU OUT WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT.

THEN NOTHING! YOU FORGOT ABOUT THE VALKYRIES, YOUNG ONE!

WE COULD ATTACK IT AGAIN, AND THEN--

MY LORD WOTAN, WITH BOTH SHIPS GONE, THE ASTEROID IS UNDEFENDED.



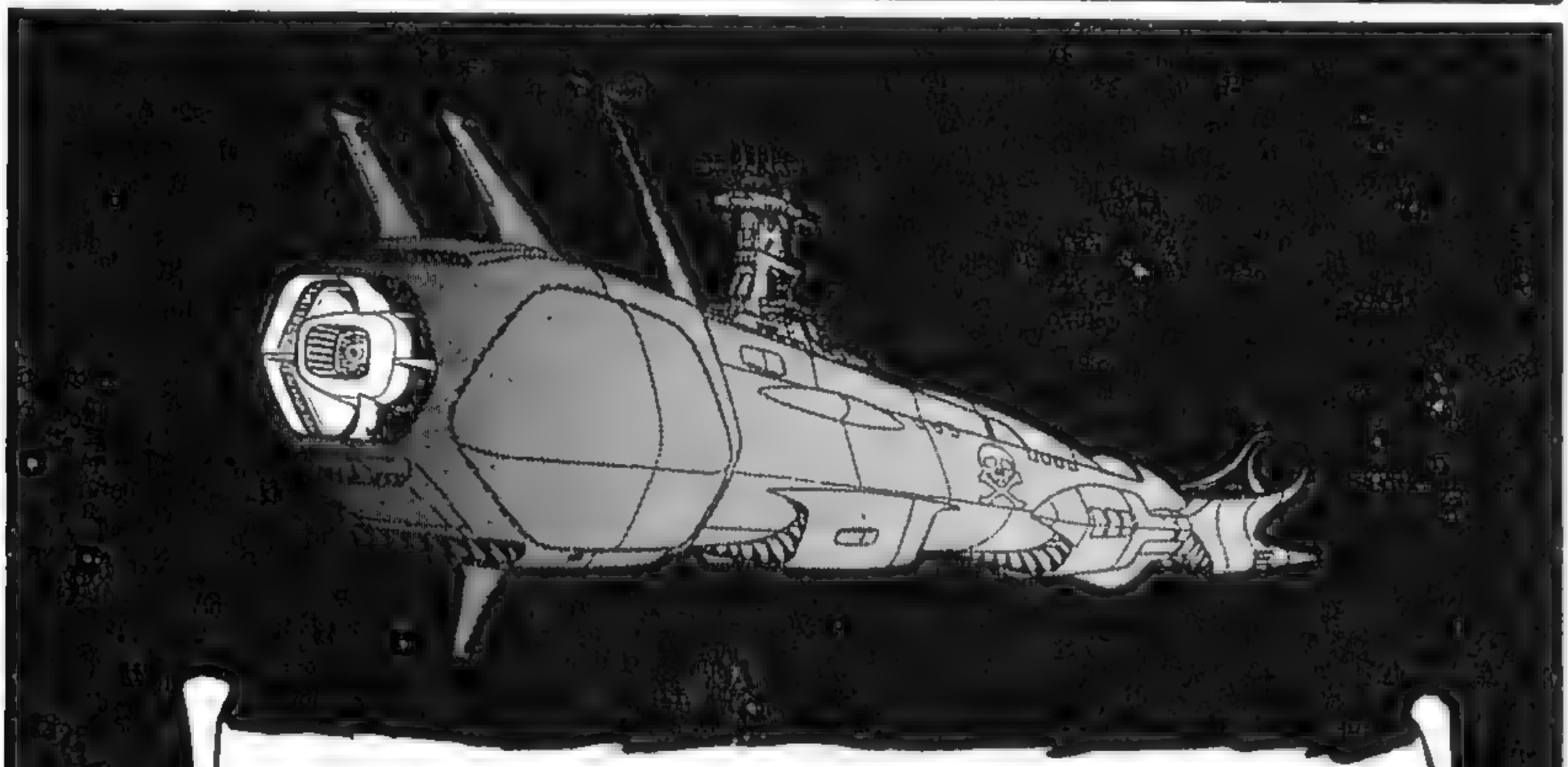
AGREED. ONE LESS TARGET ON THE -- HEY NOW, WHERE'D THE WELCOME WAGON GO? IT'S JUST VANISHED!

WELL IF THEY WON'T LISTEN, THEN LET'S LEAVE THEM BEHIND. FULL POWER WARP AS SOON AS SHE'S READY.

THAT SHIP'S GOT SOME KIND OF CLOAKING FIELD, OR I'LL SHAVE MY BEARD!!! BRING THE CREW TO BATTLE STATIONS!!!

NO SCANS, NO VISUALS, NO ENERGY SIGNATURES ...

HARLOCK!



A GREAT CLASH IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE ON THE GALACTIC RIM, BEYOND THE PLANET SIEGMUND. A DARKNESS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OUR GALAXY HAS EVER KNOWN IS ABOUT TO MAKE ITS FIRST MAJOR MOVE -- AND IT IS ALSO ABOUT TO CLASH HEAD-ON WITH GREAT HARLOCK AND THE DEATH SHADOW. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS BATTLE WITH BE GREAT FOR BOTH SIDES ... BUT IT WILL ALSO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT PART IN THE DESTINIES OF YOUNG HARLOCK AND TOCHIRO OYAMA.

Siegfried

Ring 45 : The Path of Destiny

I WONDER WHO OUR FATHERS WILL BE FIGHTING.

WITH OUR ENGINE TROUBLES, WE SURE CAN'T MIX IT UP WITH 'EM!

WHAT, AND MISS THIS?! NOT ON YOUR LIFE! BESIDES, THE VALKYRIES WILL PROTECT DAD'S BASE, AND FREYA TOO.

DAMN! YOU KNOW, HARLOCK, MAYBE IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A GOOD IDEA TO STAY PUT BACK THERE.

BRUNHILDE'S ON OUR SIDE NOW. SHE AND HER SISTERS WILL MAKE SURE WOTAN'S GOONS DON'T RAID THE JOINT.

BESIDES, BOTH OF US WOULD BE WITH OUR DADS RIGHT NOW IF THEY HADN'T TAKEN OFF SO FAST, RIGHT?

HARLOCK ... YOU REALLY LIKE BRUNHILDE, DON'T YOU? MAYBE SHE'LL BE YOUR NEXT MOM.

GAG IT, TOCHIRO.

THAT'S SO SAD ... DID MAETEL TALK TO YOU ANY ABOUT IT?

OKAY, OKAY ... Y'KNOW, EMERALDAS TOLD ME A BIT ABOUT HER MOM EARLIER.

YES ... I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. A MARVELOUS FEELING ....

I FEEL LIKE WE'RE WALKING FIRMLY IN THE PATH OF OUR DESTINIES.

... AND WE WILL FIGHT MANY BATTLES TOGETHER LIKE THIS, YOUR ARCADIA AND I.

THIS TOO IS A PART OF YOUR DESTINY, YOUNG HARLOCK ...

WELL, IF ANY SHIP COULD SEE THE FUTURE, IT WOULD BE THIS ONE.

WHY DOESN'T IT TALK TO ME LIKE THAT, EH?!

THE OLD GIRL SURE IS BUTTERING YOU UP, HARLOCK!

SAY WHAT?!?

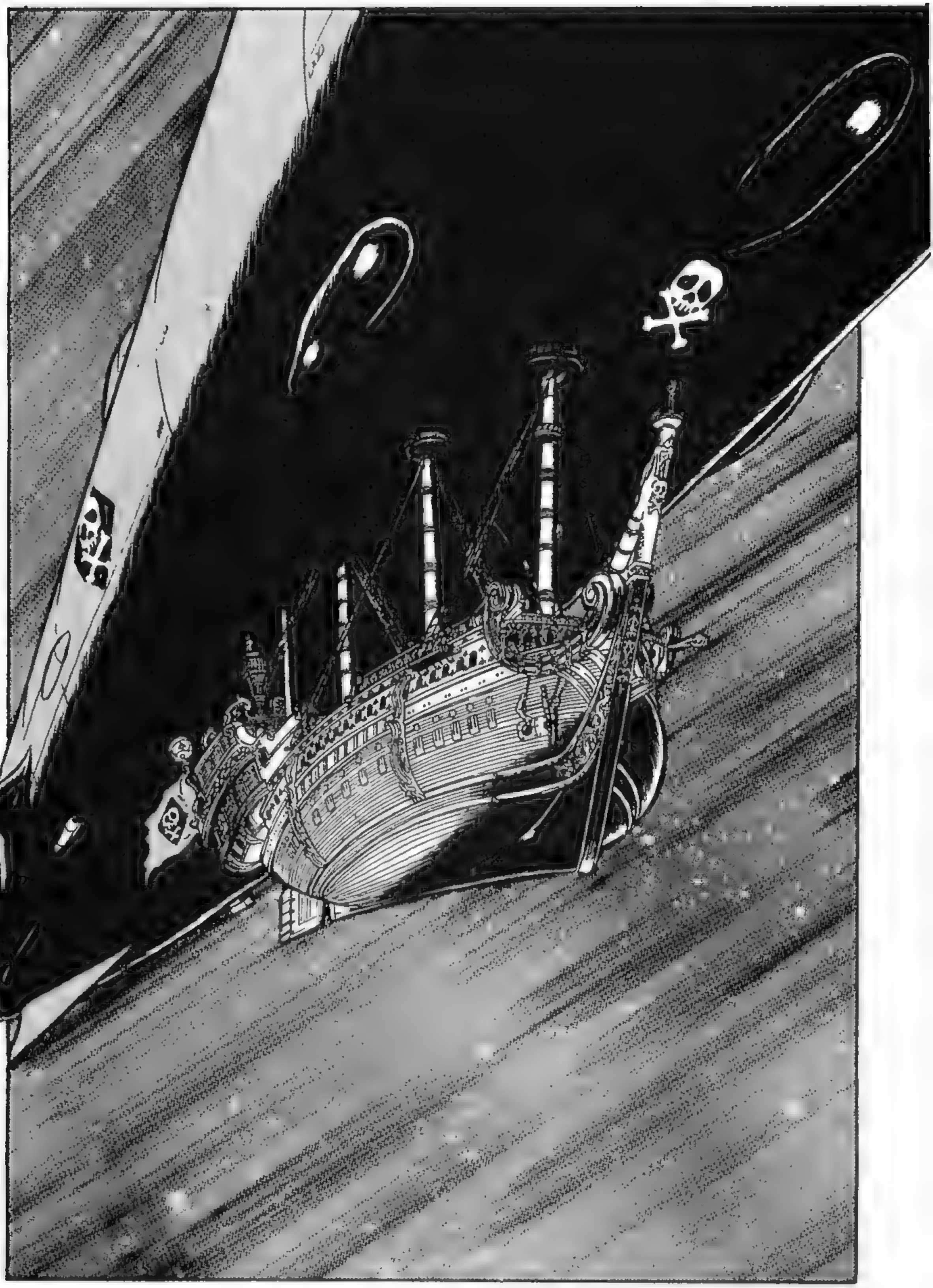
I DON'T THINK IT MEANT IT QUITE LIKE THAT, BUDDY.

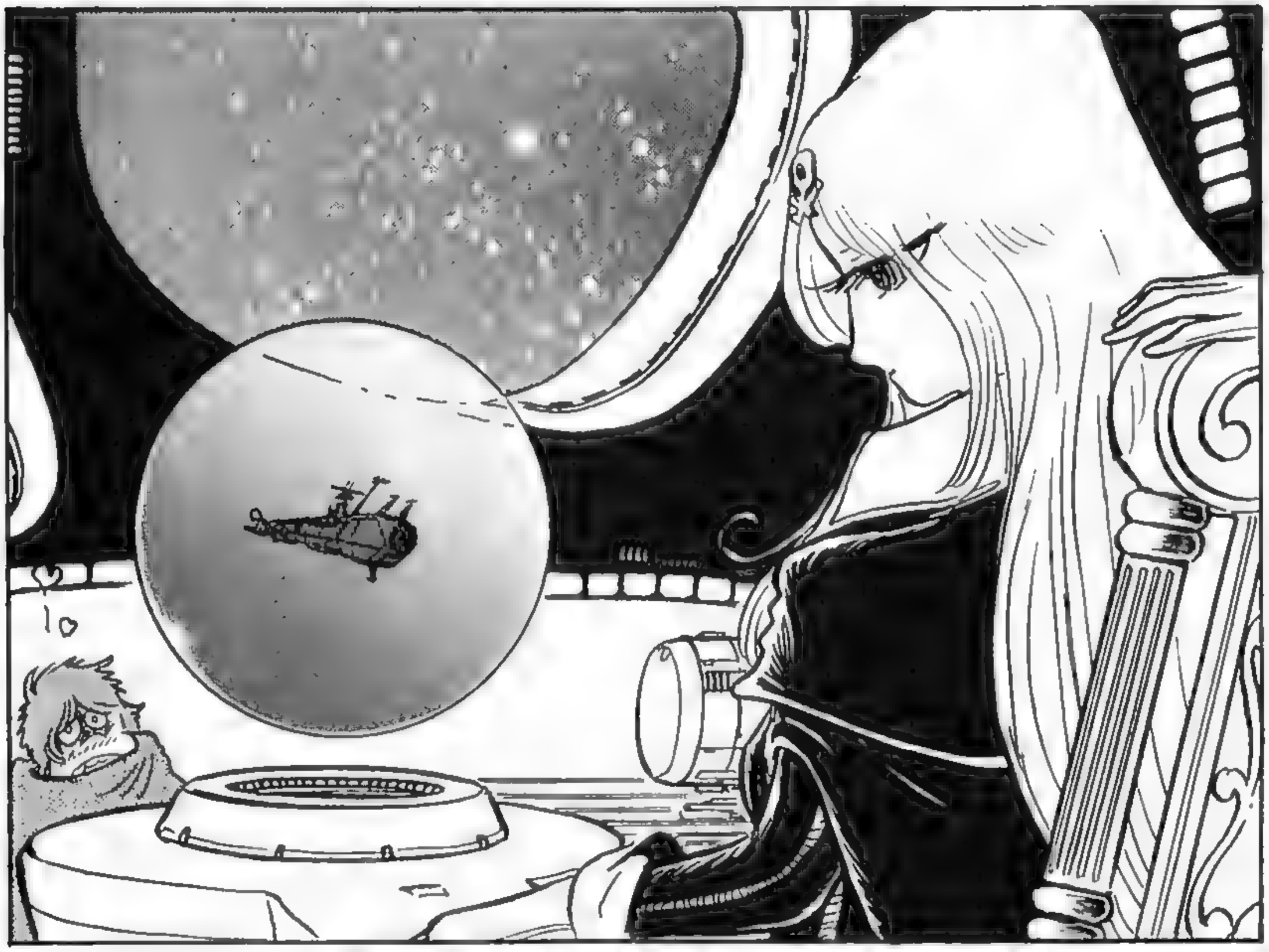
I AM SORRY, YOUNG ONE. YOUR BOND WITH ME WILL BE DIFFERENT THAN THAT OF YOUR FRIEND. OURS WILL BE MORE INTIMATE THAN HIS.

IT WAS PART OF YOUR DESTINY TO ROUSE ME FROM MY SLUMBER, JUST AS IT IS TO BRING ME BACK TO FULL LIFE AGAIN. LIKE EMERALDAS, OUR DESTINIES ARE INDESTRUCTIBLE.

IS IT NOT THE WAY OF ALL GREAT ENGINEERS AMONG YOUR KIND TO BE AS ONE WITH THE SHIPS IN THEIR CARE? SO YOUR ADULT SELF SAID TO ME.

INDESTRUCTIBLE?

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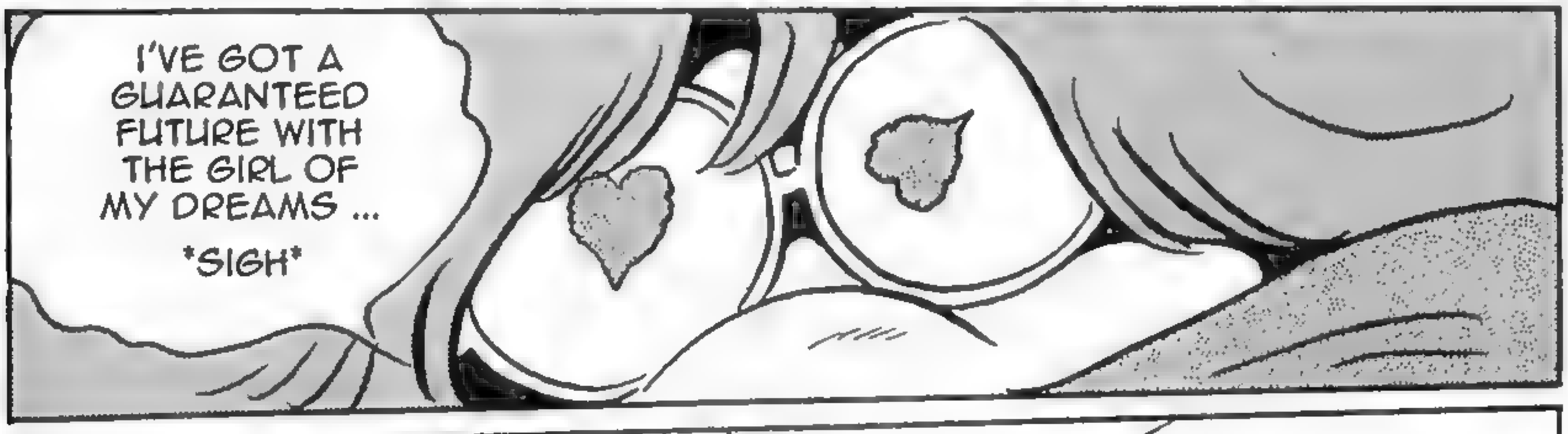
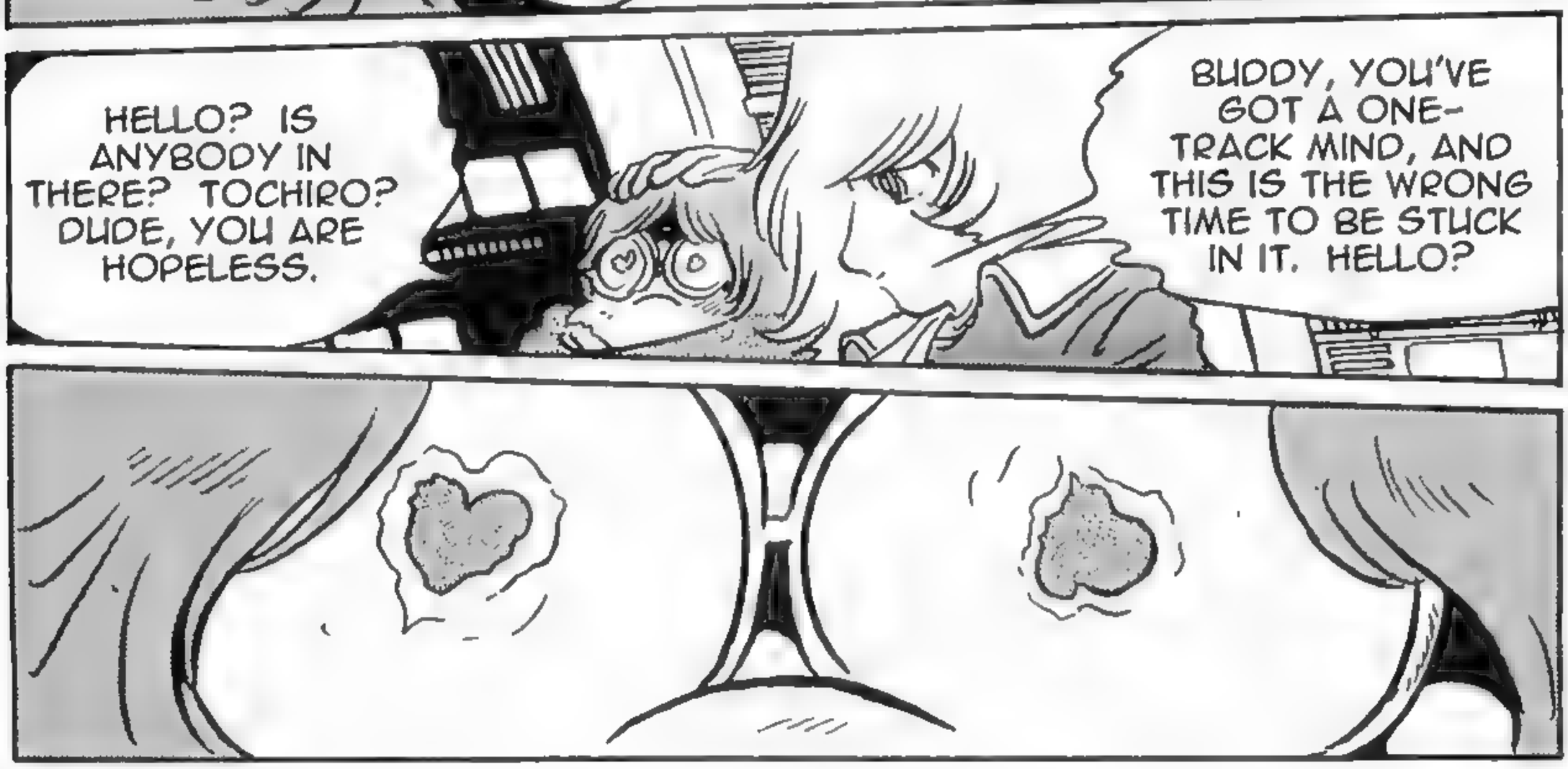
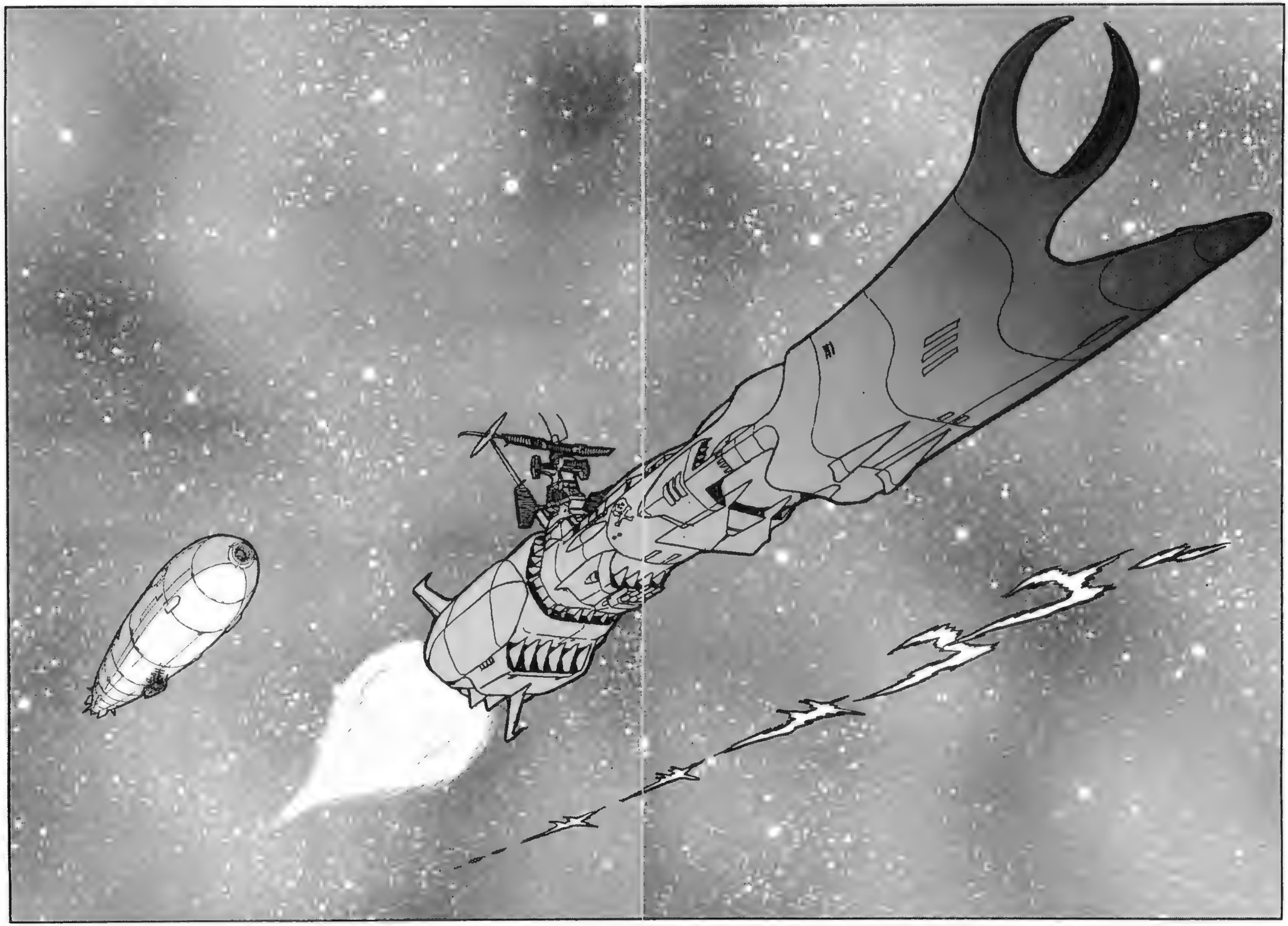

I'VE GOT A GUARANTEED FUTURE WITH THE GIRL OF MY DREAMS ...
SIGH


HELLO? IS ANYBODY IN THERE? TOCHIRO? DUDE, YOU ARE HOPELESS.
BUDDY, YOU'VE GOT A ONE-TRACK MIND, AND THIS IS THE WRONG TIME TO BE STUCK IN IT. HELLO?



THEY ALWAYS INTENDED TO FIGHT ALONE, TOCHIRO. THAT'S WHY THEY LEFT US BEHIND EARLIER.

DAMN! THEY'RE POURING ON THE COAL, AND WE CAN'T CATCH 'EM SINCE WE DON'T HAVE FULL POWER!

PERHAPS WE SHOULD GO BACK.

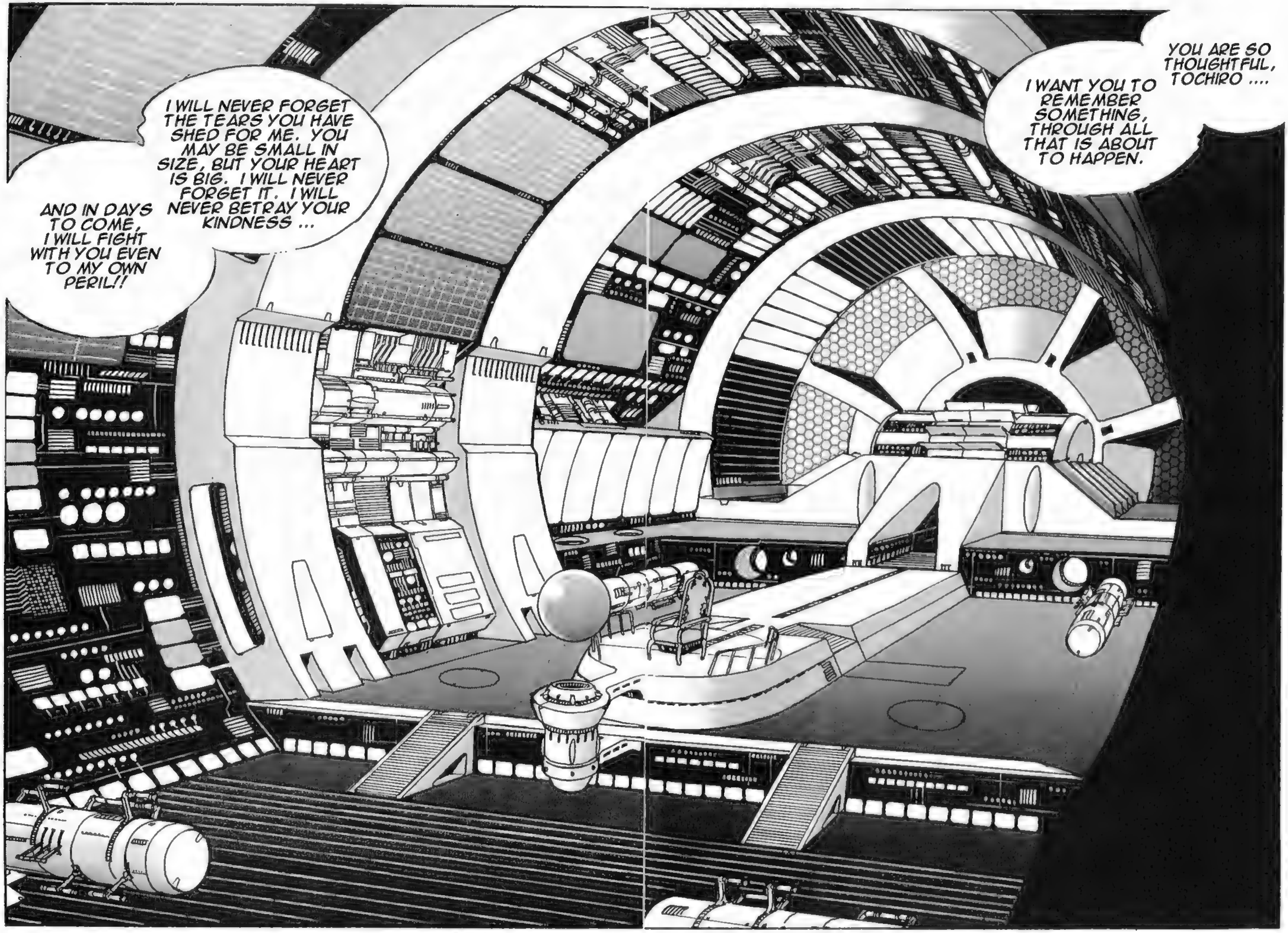
I AM TRULY SORRY, MY YOUNG FRIENDS. IF I COULD HAVE KEPT UP WITH THEM, I WOULD HAVE.

IF IT'S MY DESTINY TO REPAIR YOU, THEN I'M GOING TO DO THE BEST JOB I POSSIBLY CAN!

WELL, ALL RIGHT THEN. I'LL DO ALL THAT I CAN TO GET YOU BACK IN SHAPE.

IT ... IT'S AN HONOR TO BE THE ONE ... AND IT'S AN HONOR ... TO ALSO BE YOUR FRIEND ... YOU'RE SOMETHING ELSE, QUEEN EMERALDAS -- YOU KNOW THAT?

I WON'T LET YOU DOWN, QUEEN EMERALDAS! AND I SURE CAN'T LET MY ADULT SELF DOWN! I'LL GET YOU FIXED BACK UP IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!

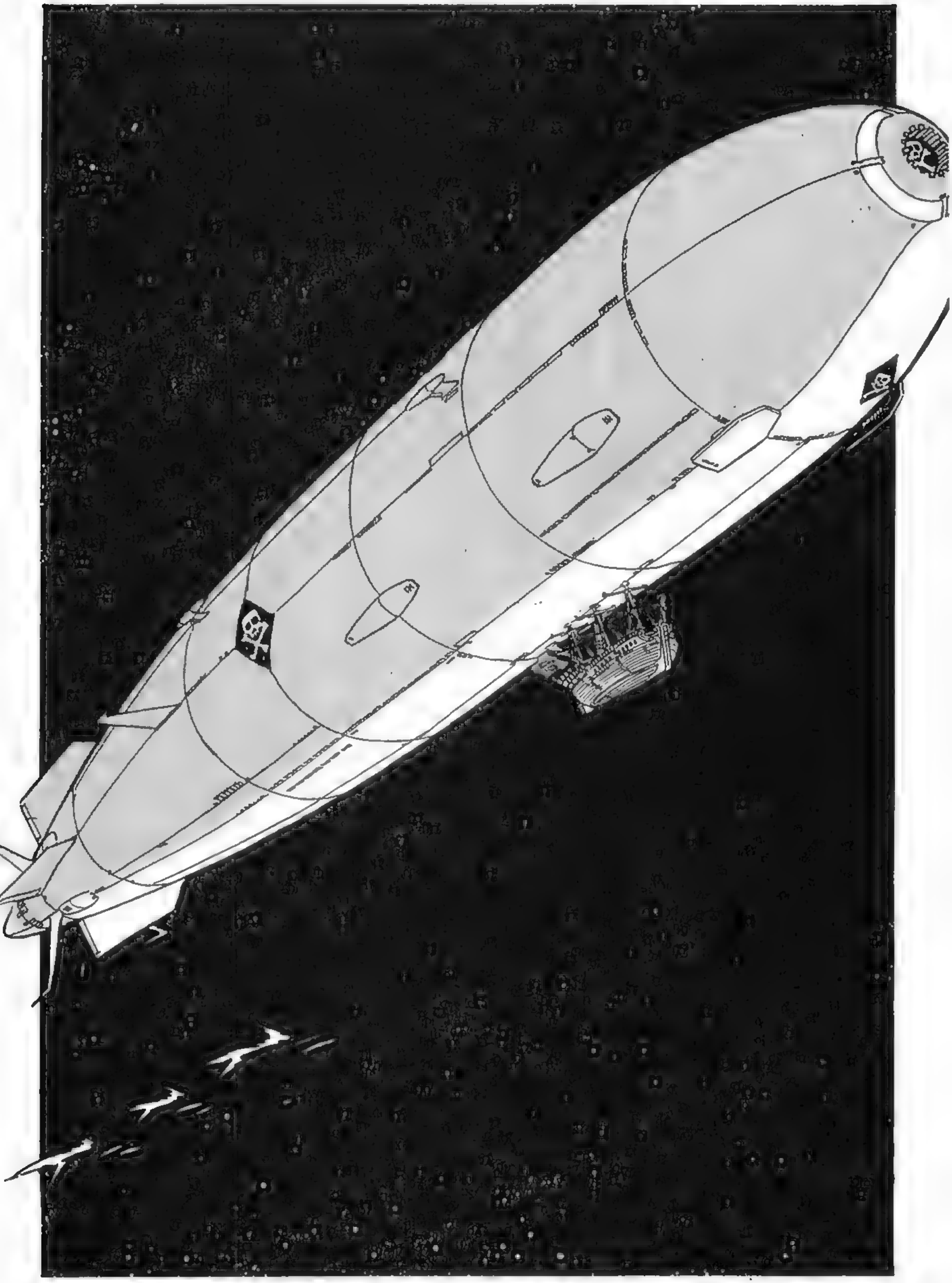

I WILL NEVER FORGET THE TEARS YOU HAVE SHED FOR ME. YOU MAY BE SMALL IN SIZE, BUT YOUR HEART IS BIG. I WILL NEVER FORGET IT. I WILL NEVER BETRAY YOUR KINDNESS ...
AND IN DAYS TO COME, I WILL FIGHT WITH YOU EVEN TO MY OWN PERIL!!
I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER SOMETHING, THROUGH ALL THAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
YOU ARE SO THOUGHTFUL, TOCHIRO ....

... AND I CRY EASILY ONCE I'M MOVED ... LIKE JUST NOW ....

I ... I'M SORRY, I CAN'T HELP BUT CRY. YOU SEE, I'M A SENTIMENTAL YOUNG FOOL ...

EMERALDAS ...

TOCHRO ... HOW SWEET!



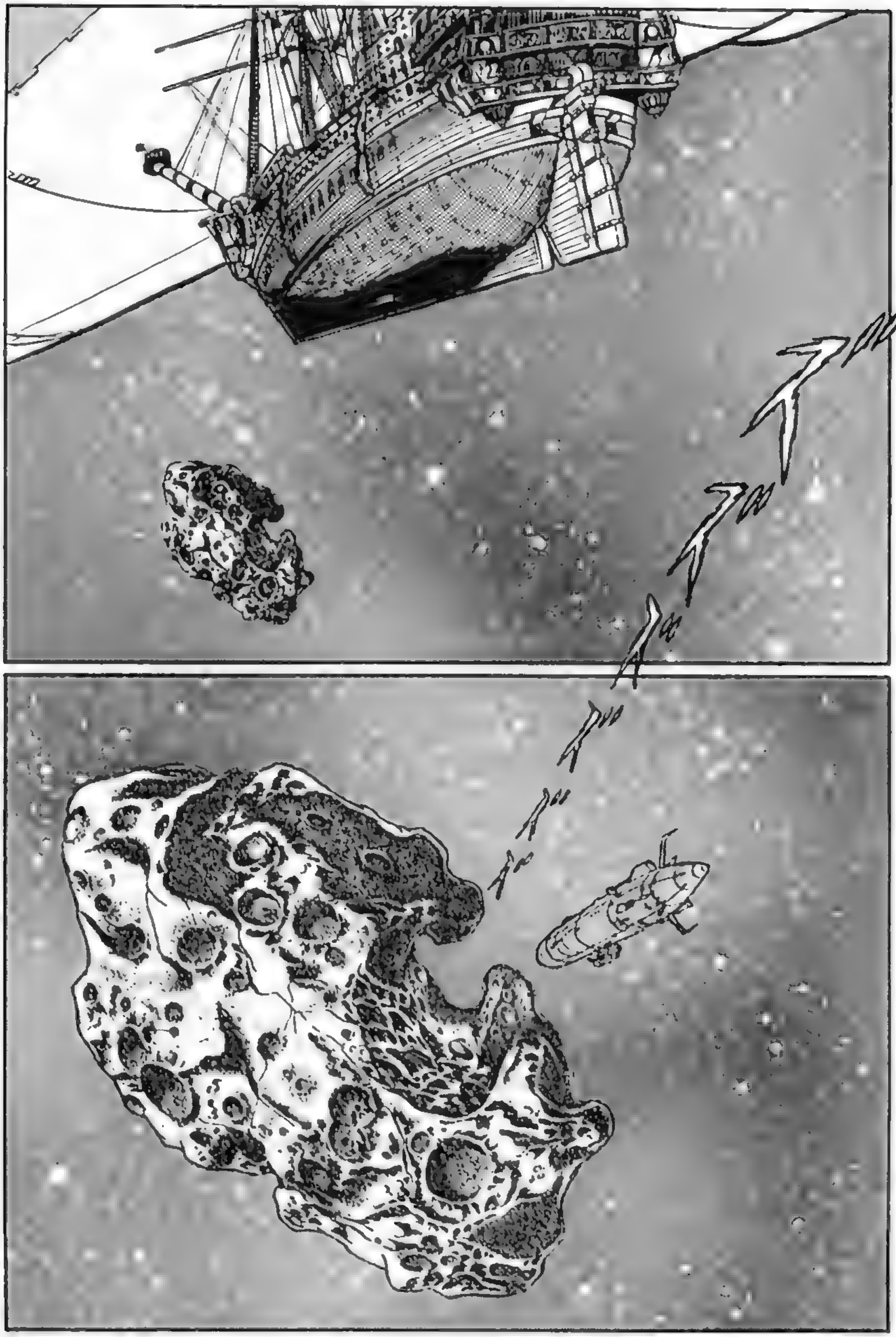
... OKAY ... GIVE ME A MINUTE TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER, OKAY?

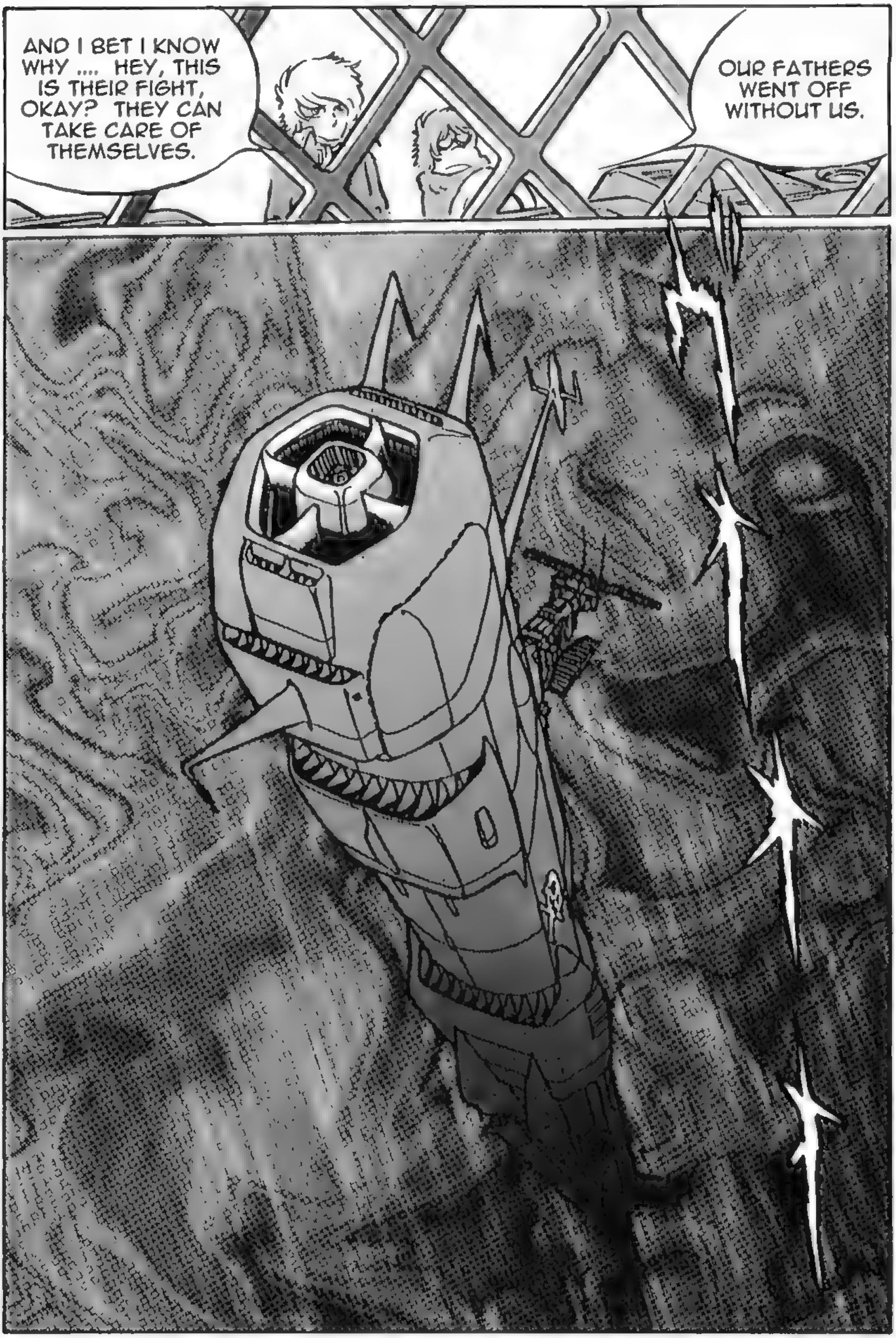
TOCHIRO ... LET'S HEAD BACK. YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO.

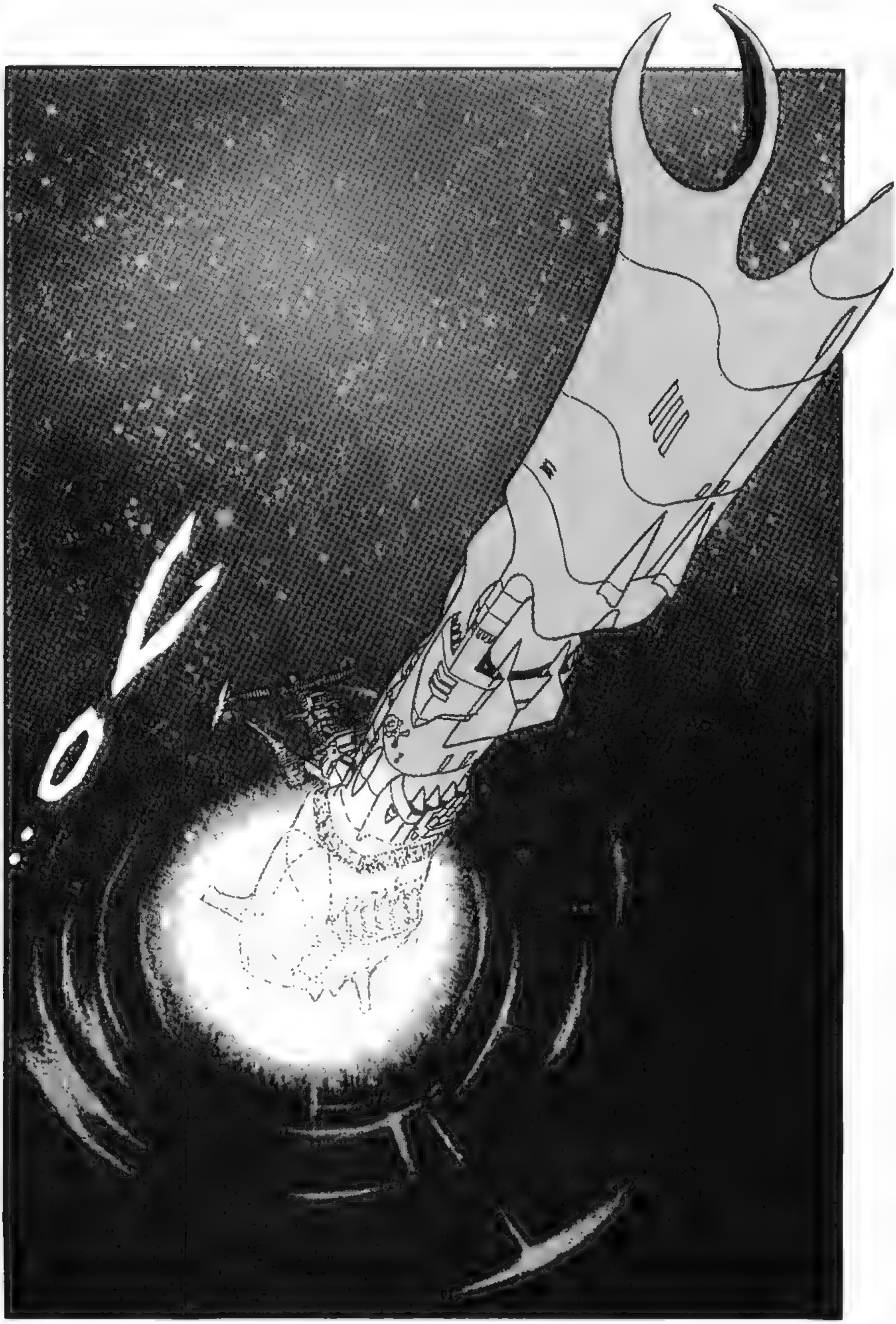
YES, TOCHIRO -- AND WHEN WE GET BACK, YOU MUST GIVE ME A THOROUGH INSPECTION AT YOUR FATHER'S DOCKS. I AN COUNTING ON YOU, FRIEND.

DAD ....

YEAH. SURE. I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT ....




AND I BET I KNOW WHY .... HEY, THIS IS THEIR FIGHT, OKAY? THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.
OUR FATHERS WENT OFF WITHOUT US.



IT IS ONE THING TO TALK ABOUT THE ABYSS. IT IS QUITE ANOTHER TO STARE IT IN THE FACE, MUCH LESS DANCE UPON ITS RIM. GREAT HARLOCK AND DR. OYAMA HAVE DONE BOTH -- AND FAIRLY RECENTLY, TOO. IS IT ANY WONDER, THEN, THAT WHEN CONFRONTED WITH ANOTHER DARKNESS, BOTH OF THEM GIVE IT PROPER RESPECT? A RASH MAN WOULD LAUGH. A LESSER MAN WOULD RUN. THEY RESPECT IT ... BUT ALSO WORK TO DEFEAT IT

WELL, WELL NOW ....

THIS MAY BE A BIT TOUGHER THAN WE THOUGHT.

SO THAT'S WHY WE LOST IT AT LONG RANGE. IT'S A NEGATIVE ENERGY SCREEN. THE COSMO RADAR CAN'T PIERCE IT.

Siegfried

Ring 46 ; Three Boys

I DARE NOT MOVE AGAINST HER, ESPECIALLY WITH FREYA LOST! DAMN THOSE NORNS!!!

SO, THE PLANET RHINE HAS BEEN PULLED BACK INTO THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE ...

... AND MIIME PLAYS ITS COSMIC ORGAN! IT'S THE PATTERN FALLING INTO PLACE!!!

I GUESS I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL THAT MIIME PLAYS AGAIN, BUT GROW ANGRY EVERY TIME I THINK OF THE REASON!

SHE IS STILL A REBEL AT HEART, AND PLAYS ONLY BECAUSE SHE HAS TO! EVEN RESUMING HER ANCIENT DUTY IS AN ACT OF OVERT DEFIANCE!

YOU FIXED THAT BROKEN ORGAN, THEN USED IT TO FREE BRUNHILDE AND HER SISTERS ...

HAD I NOT SHOWN BOTH YOU AND ALBERICH MERCY THEN, AND LET YOU FLEE, THEN I MIGHT NOT BE IN THIS CURRENT MESS.

I SHOULD HAVE KILLED BOTH YOU AND YOUR BROTHER IN THE OLD REBELLION.

WHY CAN'T I BE A TRULY OMNISCIENT AND OMNIPOTENT GOD?!

I HESITATED, AND CHOSE TO SHOW MERCY. I WAS A FOOL! HAD I BUT KNOWN WHERE THIS WOULD LEAD ....

SIGH IT'S TOO LATE NOW. FAR TOO LATE. I SEE THE PATTERN OF TODAY FALLING INTO PLACE IN THE PAST OF THIS BENT RING ...

MY LORD WOTAN?

I WONDER ... WAS ALL OF THIS PART OF YOUR PLAN, MIIME? IF SO, YOU ARE WORSE THAN ALBERICH EVER WAS!

ALL I CAN DO IS FINISH WHAT I HAVE STARTED, AND BRING DOWN GREAT HARLOCK ON HIS FIRST, AND NOW LAST, GREAT VOYAGE.

MIIME NOW PLAYS THE COSMIC ORGAN ON THE PLANET RHINE, AND HAS THROWN UP A WALL AROUND HERSELF.

DOES SHE KNOW WHAT THE MIIME OF THE PRESENT KNOWS? DOES SHE SUSPECT? IS THAT WHY SHE PROTECTS BOTH HERSELF AND THE RHINEGOLD?

THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD PART THAT CURTAIN, AND OPEN RHINE TO ALBERICH ... IS ... FREYA!

SHE'S ALIVE?! FREYA LIVES?!! BRUNHILDE ... OH, YOU GIRL!!!

MY LORD? A MESSAGE FROM BRUNHILDE. FREYA IS ALIVE AND IS RECOVERING FROM HER WOUNDS SUFFERED IN BATTLE.

... IF THEY WILL BUT BRING FREYA BACK TO VALHALLA ONCE SHE'S FIT ENOUGH TO TRAVEL!!!

SHE MUST HAVE SAVED FREYA'S LIFE! CALL HER BACK! TELL HER -- TELL BRUNHILDE AND HER SISTERS THAT I'LL PARDON THEM ...

DO IT!!

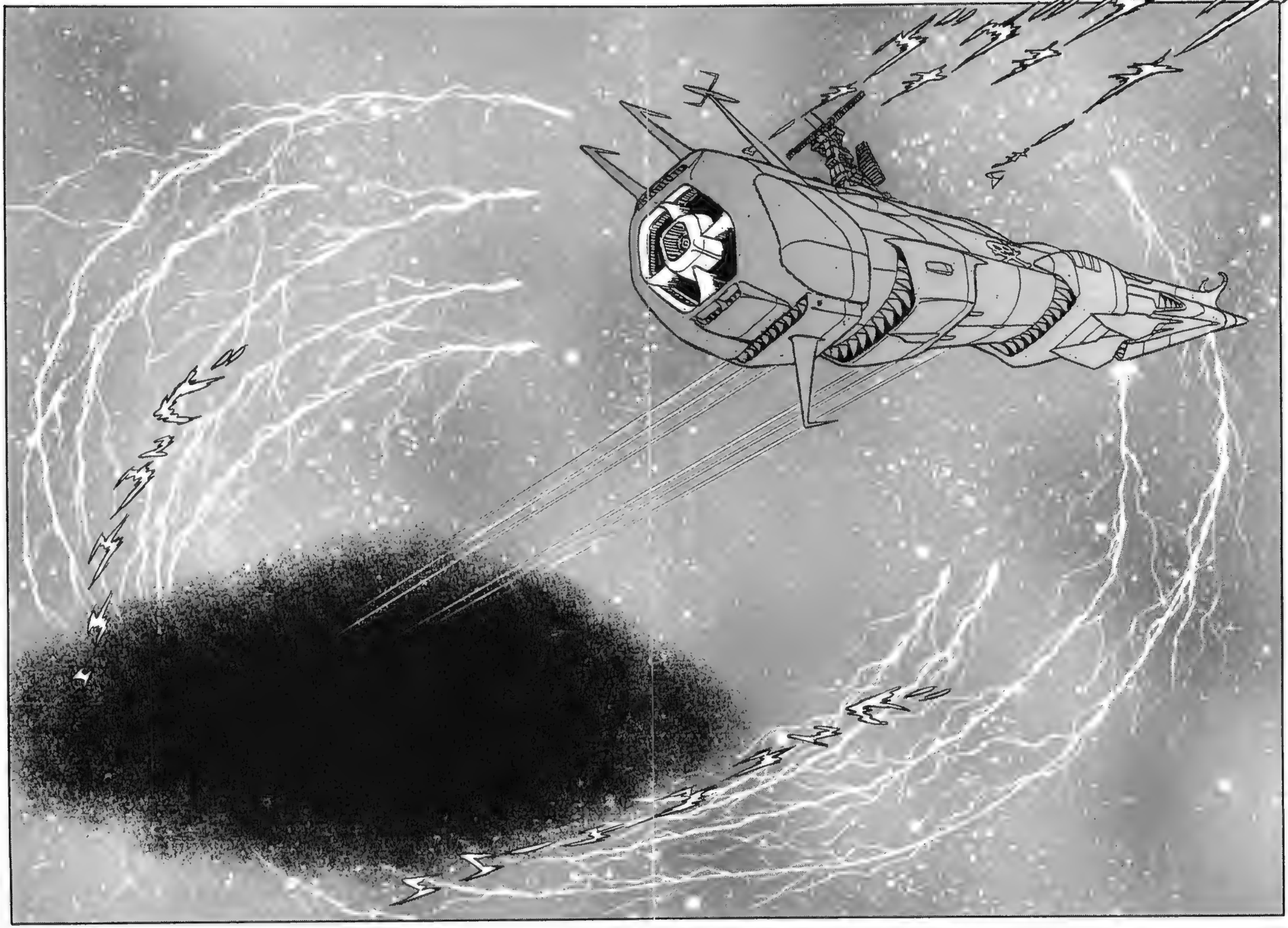
A FULL PARDON, MY LORD WOTAN? AFTER ALL THAT SHE AND HER SISTERS HAVE DONE?

ONE CAN ALWAYS HOPE.

MAYBE THEY'LL COME BACK TO ME BEFORE THE TYRANOVULCAN SHIP DESTROYS GREAT HARLOCK.

AH, YES ... QUITE A LIVELY FIGHT, IT SEEMS ....

MY LORD THE TWO VESSELS HAVE ENGAGED EACH OTHER IN BATTLE.



EXHORT THEM TO DESTROY ASTEROID 6565 REIJI FROM WITHIN!!!

SEND ANOTHER MESSAGE TO THE VALKYRIES!

SISTER BRUNHILDE! THE QUEEN EMERALDAS HAS COME BACK!

WHICH MEANS GREAT HARLOCK IS FACING HIS ENEMY ALONE .....

THEY'RE PROBABLY JAMMING EACH OTHER'S SIGNALS. ECM, ECCM, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE?

HEY! WE'VE LOST THE IMAGES OF THE BATTLE!

SISTER, A MESSAGE FROM VALHALLA. YOU SHOULD SEE THIS YOURSELF.

HMMM ... I SEE. WELL, NOW THAT THE YOUNG ONES ARE BACK, I SHALL LEAVE FREYA WITH THEM.

... EVEN THOUGH NONE WERE YET READY. ONCE THE LITTLE ONE FINISHES BRINGING THE OLD SHIP BACK TO LIFE FOR THE FIREBRAND ...

THAT OLD SHIP, AND THOSE FOUR YOUTHS ... THE PHOENIX AND HER CHILDREN, RISING TO THE CHALLENGE ...

... THEN THE TIME WILL COME FOR IT TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE THE ARCADIA IN THE FUTURE! I HAVE SEEN THIS!

TOGETHER, THEY WILL FOLLOW THE PATH OF DESTINY IN BOTH TIME AND SPACE AS ONLY WE HAVE!

THEY NEED YOUR PROTECTION, MY SISTERS. STAY WITH THEM UNTIL OUR FATHER GIVES UP ON THIS MAD EFFORT TO SWAY THE HAND OF FATE AND DESTROY THEM.

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, BRUNHILDE? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WE ARE NINE! WE ARE ONE! YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN WITH US! DO NOT LEAVE US NOW, SISTER!

NO ... MY TIME HAS COME.

THIS IS MY DESTINY, SISTERS! DO NOT DENY IT TO ME!!!

I MUST GO AND FIGHT ALONGSIDE GREAT HARLOCK! HE NEEDS MY AID IN THE FIGHT THAT IS COMING! I NEED TO ADD MY SMALL FLAME TO THOSE THAT BURN IN HIS HEART, AND THAT OF DR. OYAMA!!!

YES, BRUNHILDE!

I ... I MUST LEAVE YOU NOW, MY BELOVED SISTERS. YOU CAN STAY HERE IF YOU WISH. CAN YOU FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE OF THESE FOUR CHILDREN?

I THANK YOU .... THEY WILL CALL ON YOU AGAIN IN THAT FUTURE WAR, THESE FOUR ... HARLOCK ... TOCHIRO ... EMERALDAS ... MAETEL ...

... AND WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR THEM TO CALL ON YOU FOR AID, YOU MUST BE THERE. THE TWO GIRLS HAVE THE LONG LIVES OF THE LAMAETEL, AND EVEN NOW ARE OLD IN HUMAN YEARS ...

... AND YOU MUST BE THERE FOR THEM. YOU ARE IMMORTAL. THE TWO BOYS ARE HUMAN. YOU WILL WATCH THEM GROW INTO ADULTS ...

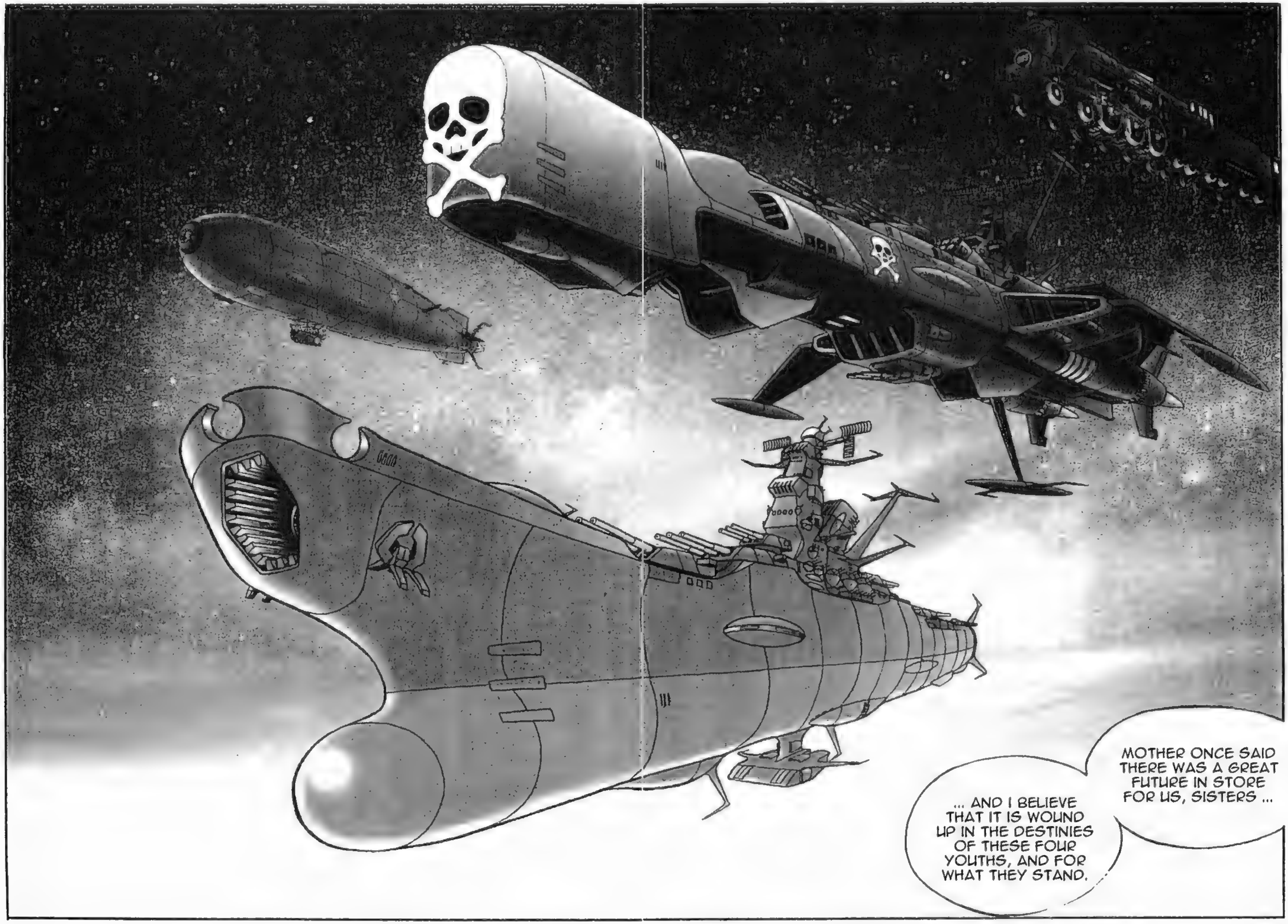
THE FIREBRAND WITH THE RED HAIR ... HER THREAD OF LIFE IS WOVEN TIGHTLY WITH THE LITTLE HUMAN, EVEN THOUGH THAT THREAD IS PITIFULLY SHORT EVEN BY THEIR MEASURE ...

... THEY TOO ARE PART OF THIS DESTINY, AND YOU MUST HELP THEM EVEN AS YOU HELP THE TWO HUMAN BOYS ....

... NO LESS EASY, AND FAR MORE HARD IN CERTAIN RESPECTS ....

... BUT AS FOR HER YOUNGER SISTER, THE ONE WITH HAIR OF GOLD LIKE OURS, HER ROAD IS A DIFFERENT AND SOLITARY ONE ...

WHEN HER DESTINY IS REALIZED, AND SHE MEETS ANOTHER YOUNG BOY THAT WILL SHAPE IT, YOU MUST BE THERE THEN FOR HER, TOO -- HELPING IN WHATEVER WAYS YOU ARE ABLE ....


MOTHER ONCE SAID THERE WAS A GREAT FUTURE IN STORE FOR US, SISTERS ...
... AND I BELIEVE THAT IT IS WOUND UP IN THE DESTINIES OF THESE FOUR YOUTHS, AND FOR WHAT THEY STAND.

... AND IT PLAYS OUT, IN FORM OR ANOTHER, ACROSS THE HISTORY OF EACH UNIVERSE AND IN EACH RING OF TIME, AND OURS IS BUT ONE SMALL PART ....

THIS TALE OF WHICH WE ARE A PART TRANSCENDS THE RINGS OF TIME ...

WELL, JUDGING FROM THE LIGHT SHOW IN THIS HOLOGLOBE, THEY'RE REALLY DUKING IT OUT WITH EACH OTHER.

I WISH WE KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING OUT THERE.

IF ONLY WE COULD GET A BETTER PICTURE! I KNOW THE OLD GIRL'S LONG RANGE SENSORS ARE DOING THE BEST THEY CAN ...

AT LEAST THAT WAY WE KNOW THEY'RE STILL ALIVE.

THIS HOLOGLOBE -- I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT! IT'S LIKE ITS A COMBINED TIME AND DIMENSIONAL RADAR, BUT IN A SINGLE UNIT, AND WITH 3D DISPLAY ABILITY! AMAZING!!

... BUT STILL! *SIGH* AT LEAST WE'VE GOT THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE, BARRING BEING THERE.

OUTTA MY WAY! IT'S ABOUT TIME I FIX THIS THING ONCE AND FOR ALL!!!

UHH, TOCHIRO? THAT DOESN'T SOUND OR LOOK GOOD.

IN ALL THE LONG HISTORY THAT THEIR FAMILIES HAVE SHARED TOGETHER, NOT ONCE HAS ANY MEMBER OF THE HARLOCK OR OYAMA FAMILIES, EITHER MALE OR FEMALE, ADMITTED DEFEAT. WHY? BECAUSE EACH GENERATION HAS BEEN IMBUED WITH INDOMINITABLE COURAGE AND STRENGTH OF WILL WITH FEW EQUALS. EVEN IF NEITHER HAD A SPECIAL DESTINY TO FULFILL, YOUNG HARLOCK AND TOCHIRO OYAMA WOULD HAVE STILL GROWN UP TO TAKE THE PLACES OF THEIR FATHERS IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF THEIR FAMILIES -- PASSING ON ITS REPUTATION FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT. IT IS THAT SAME IRON WILL THAT NOW DRIVES THEIR FATHERS IN THEIR CURRENT BATTLE -- AND THAT IS BUT THE PRELUDE OF THINGS TO COME.

Siegfried

Ring 47 : Mother Planet

DAMNIT! OUR FATHERS ARE FIGHTING THE BATTLE OF THEIR LIVES, AND HERE WE ARE STUCK BACK AT THE DOCKS!!!

I KNOW, I KNOW! BUT WHAT WITH THE QUEEN EMERALDAS IN THE SHAPE IT'S IN, WE AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL I CAN FINISH WITH THE REPAIRS.

MAN, LOOK AT ALL THE ENERGY ROUNDS THEY'RE EXCHANGING! THAT FIRE DRAGON SHIP IS ONE FORMIDABLE OPPONENT!!!

I'D SAY THE DEATH SHADOW IS HAVING THE FIGHT OF ITS LIFE!

CAN WE BEAT THIS THING?

HOW ARE WE DOING, TOSHIRO?

IF WE CAN HOLD OUT ... FOR JUST ... A LITTLE BIT ....

WE GOTTA KNOCK DOWN THAT NEGATIVE ENERGY BARRIER, AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DO IT.

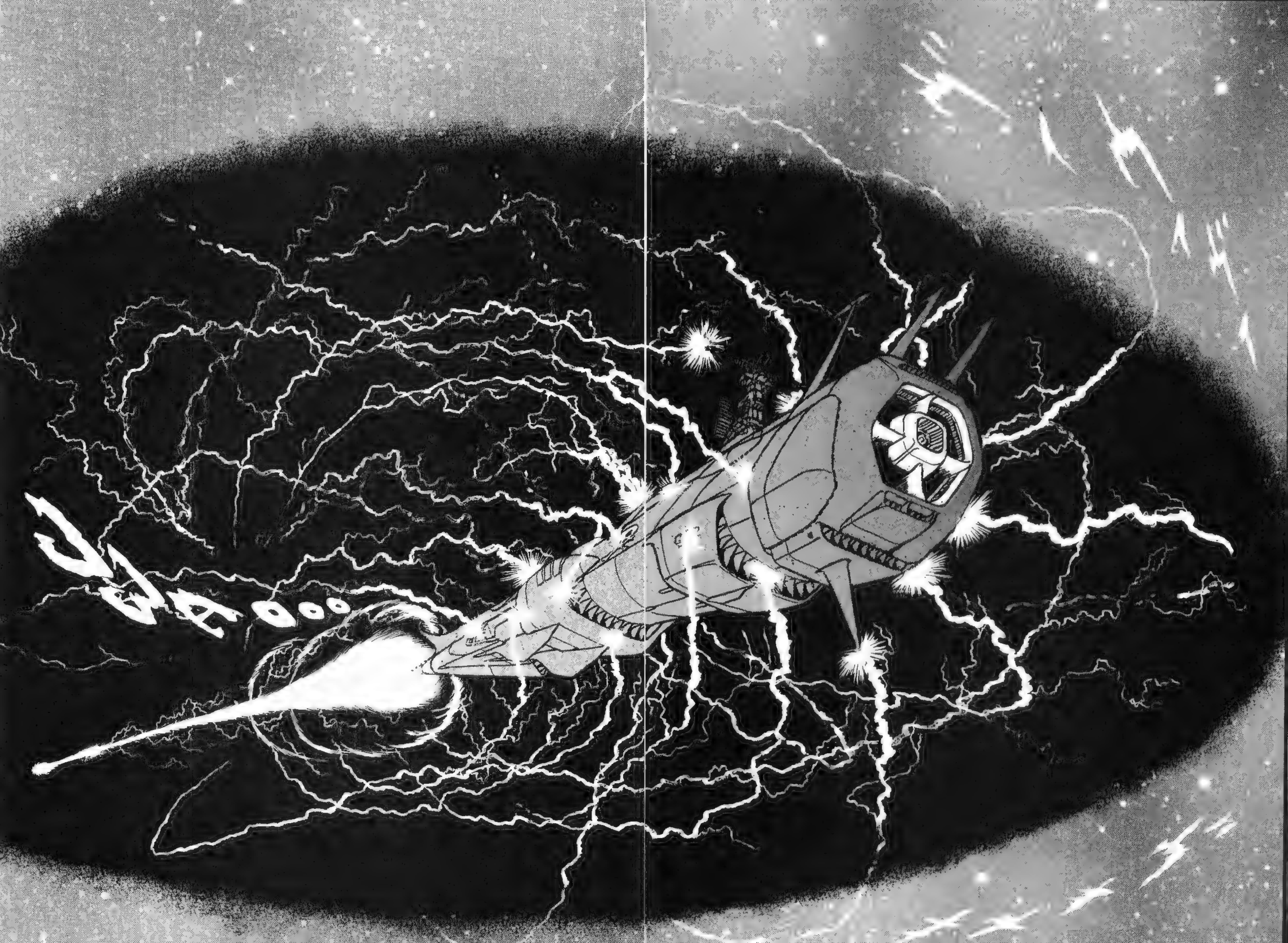
MEXICAN STANDOFF. THEY CAN'T DESTROY US, AND WE CAN'T DESTROY THEM. ANY SUGGESTIONS?

THAT MINI-WAVE MOTION GUN THAT YATTARAN'S BOY WAS WORKING ON. IT'LL CRACK THIS FIELD LIKE A RAW EGG!

HOW?

YOU GOT A BETTER IDEA, HARLOCK? IF SO, I'D LIKE TO HEAR IT!!!

THAT'LL REQUIRE A LOT OF RAW POWER WE CAN'T SP--

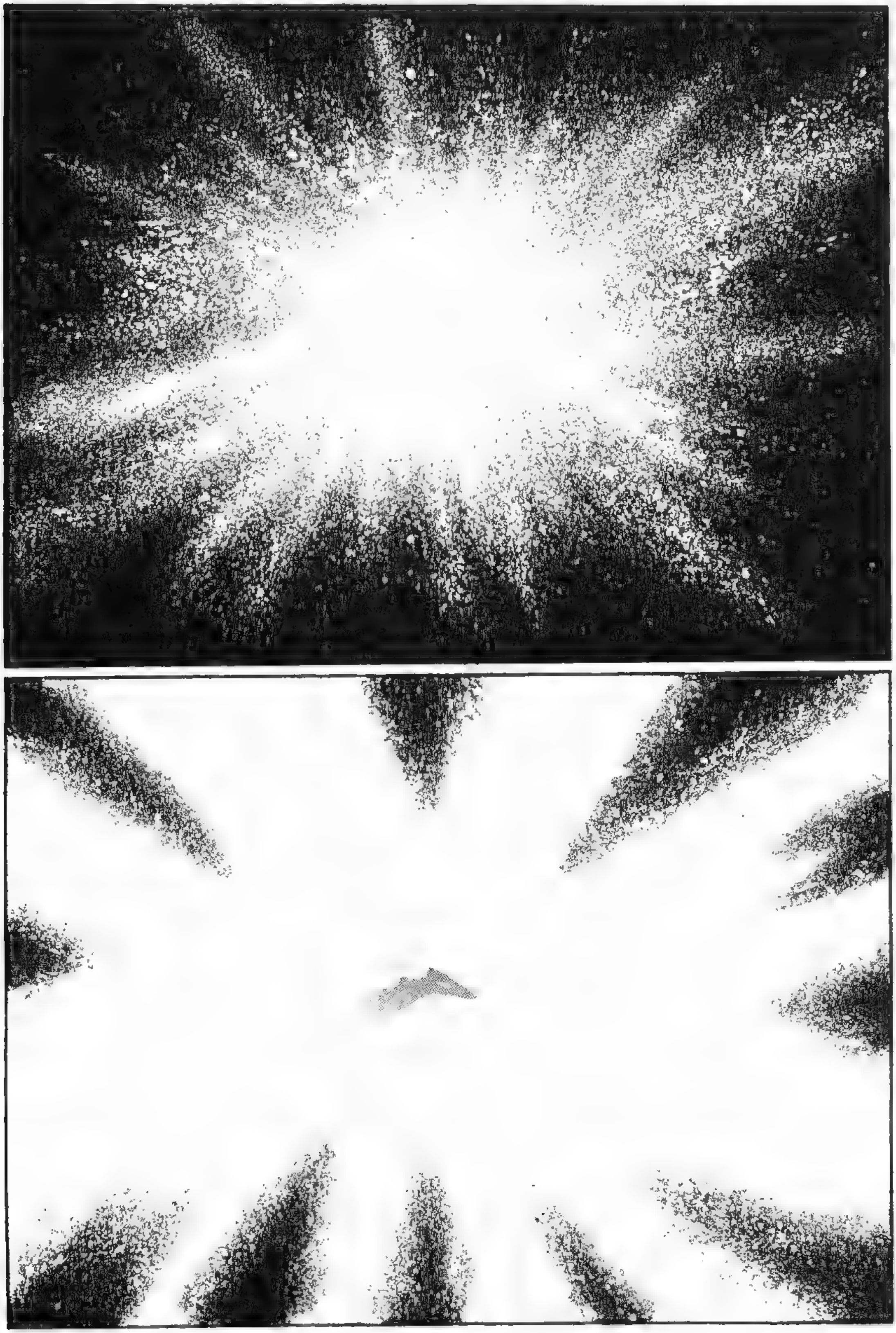

ZZA...OO...

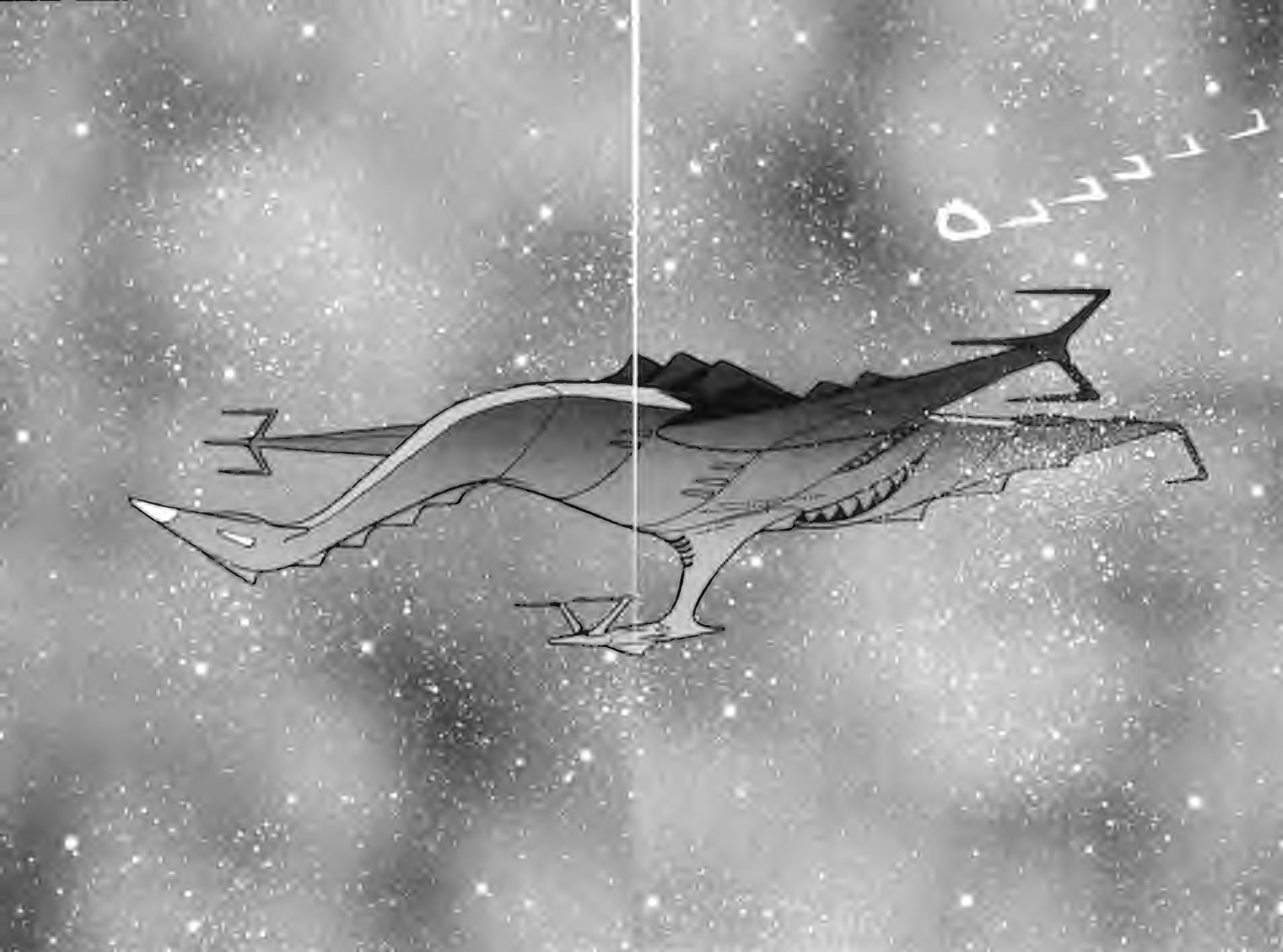
LOOK! THAT SHIP'S NEGATIVE ENERGY FIELD IS BREAKING UP.

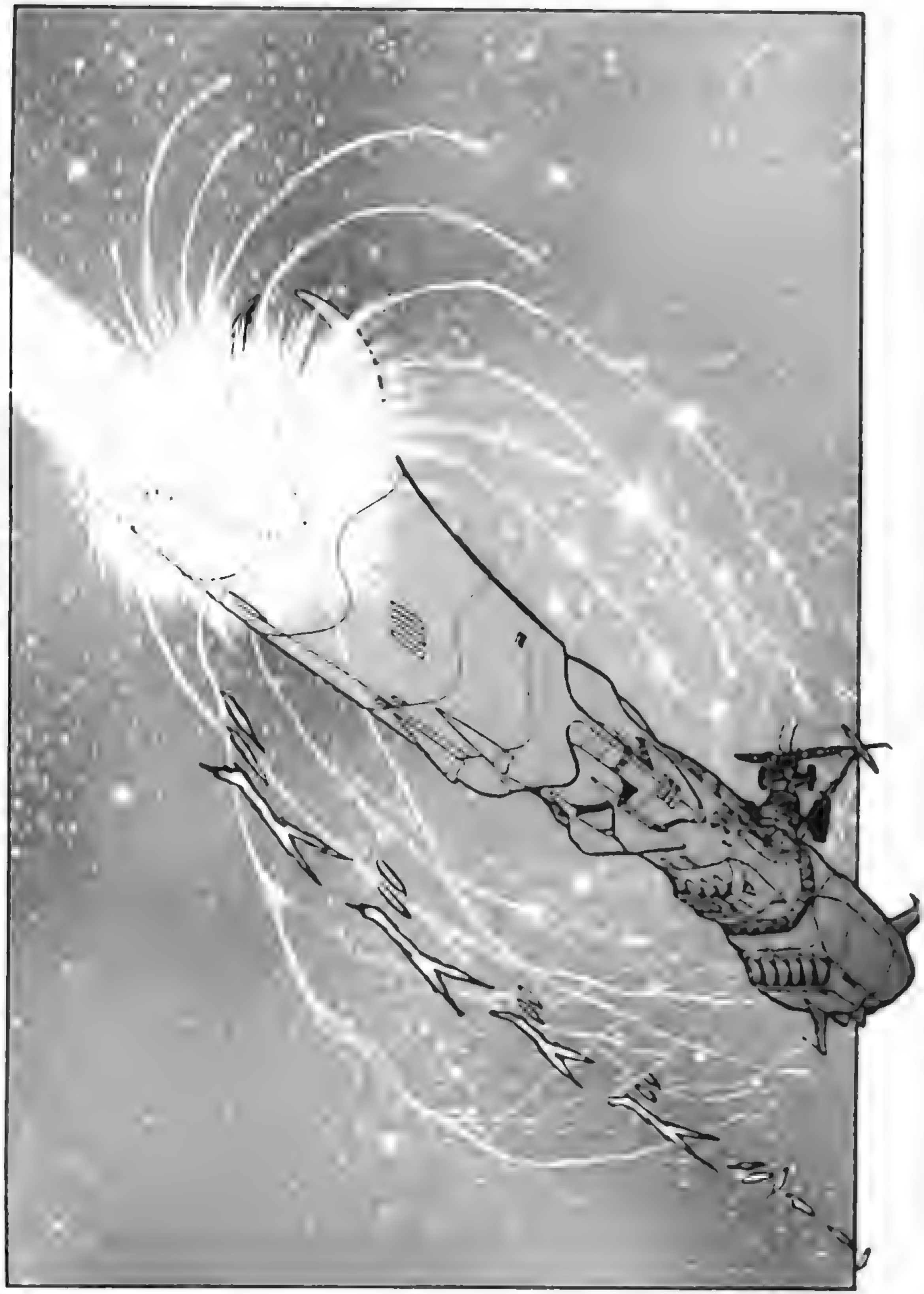
HEY! THAT WAS THE MINI-WAVE MOTION GUN! WHY'D THEY DO THAT?!

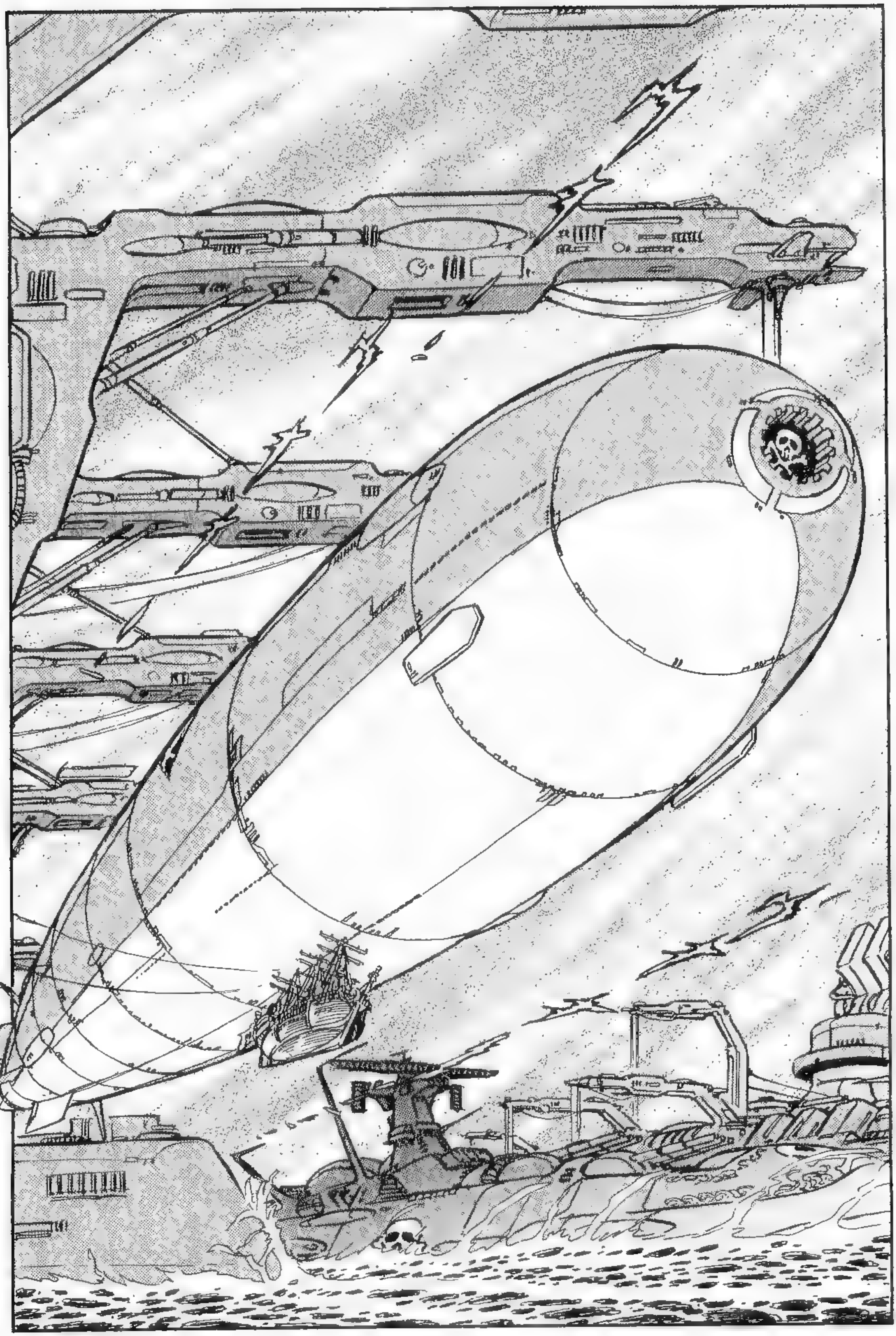
HEY, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT. AS SOON AS THE DOCK'S AUTOSYSTEMS ARE FINISHED, AND I FINE-TUNE WHAT'S LEFT, YOU CAN TAKE US WHEREVER YOU WANT -- EVEN TO OUR FATHERS.

YOUNG HARLOCK ... YOUNG TOCHIRO ... PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO JOIN THE FIGHT. I WILL TAKE YOU TO THEM AS SOON AS MY REPAIRS ARE COMPLETE.









IT CAN'T JOIN THE FIGHT. I'D CRY TOO, IF IT WERE ME.

YOU KNOW WHAT I THINK HARLOCK? THIS SHIP IS CRYING!

I CAN DO NOTHING ... I AM HELPLESS TO HELP THOSE TWO BRAVE MEN AND THEIR CREW ....

THOSE BRAVE HUMANS AND THEIR SHIP ARE GIVING EVERYTHING THEY HAVE TO WIN THAT BATTLE ... IT IS MY DUTY TO HELP THEM HOWEVER I CAN!

IF I WERE WHOLE ... I COULD LEND A HAND TO THE DEATH SHADOW ... HELP IT WIN THIS DESPERATE FIGHT AGAINST THIS FOE ...

YOUR DUTY?

TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE ... TO AID THOSE WHO STAND FOR FREEDOM ... IT IS MY DUTY TO FIGHT FOR YOUR FUTURES!!!

YES ... MY DUTY ... AND THAT OF MY MISTRESS, EMERALDAS.

I WILL BE ASHAMED IF I DO NOT, YOUNG ONES. LONG AGO, WHEN I WAS BUILT, THOSE WHO MADE ME GAVE ME THIS PURPOSE. I WOULD LET THEM DOWN IF I DID NOT TRY TO HELP YOU.

WHEN WAS THAT, MY FRIEND?

A THOUSAND EONS ... TWO THOUSAND ... IT HAS BEEN SO LONG THAT I DO NOT KNOW ANYMORE ... BUT ALL THAT TIME I WAITED FOR YOUR COMING, EMERALDAS.

YES, MAETEL.

QUEEN EMERALDAS, MAY I ASK A QUESTION?

YES?

... EVEN SO ...

I KNOW THAT YOU DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK OF THOSE WHO CREATED YOU, AND THAT YOU WILL KEEP THE MYSTERIES OF YOUR CREATION UNTIL THE DAY YOU SAIL THE SEA OF STARS NO MORE ...

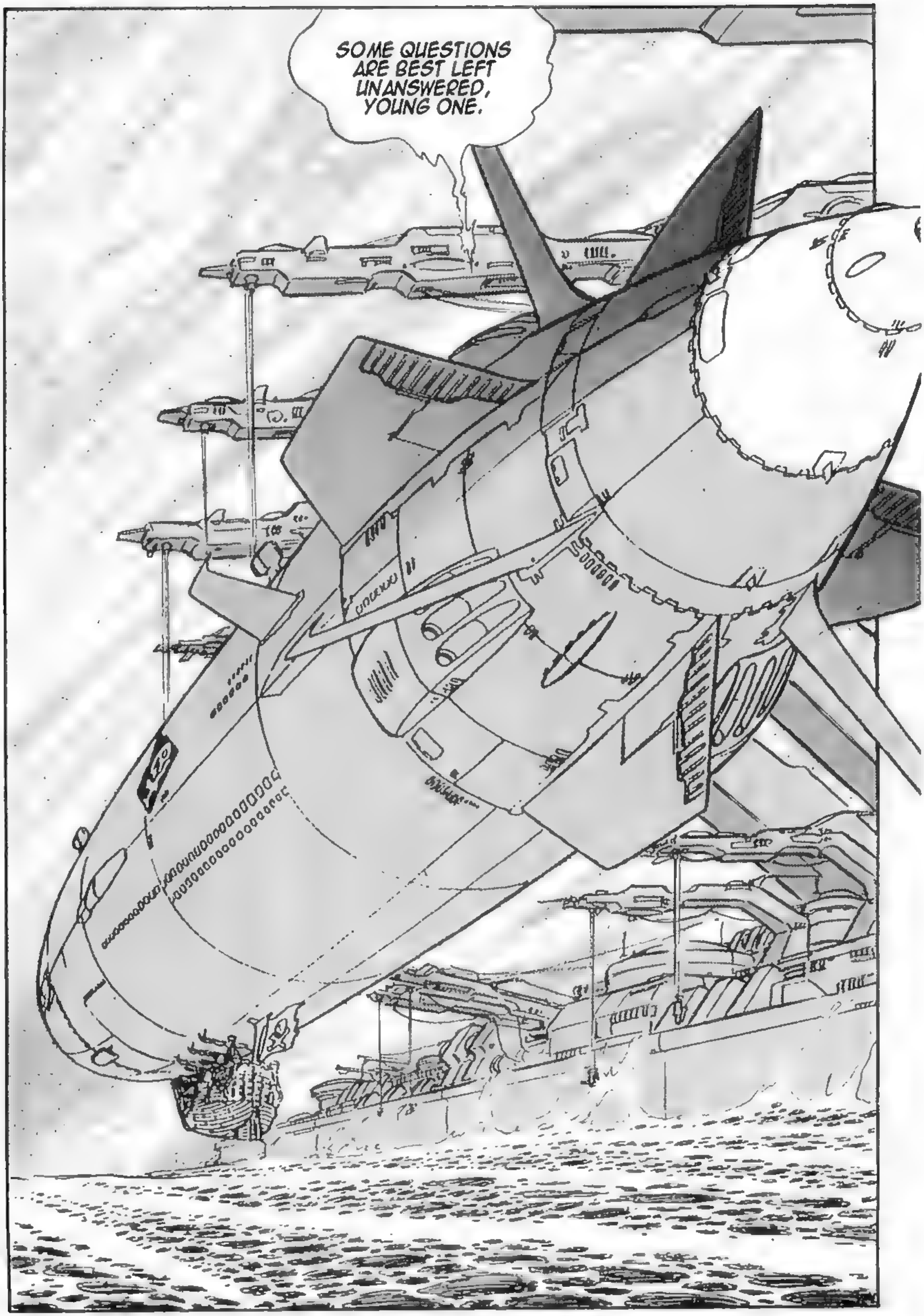
... ARE YOUR ENEMIES THE SAME AS OURS? EVEN BACK THEN, IN THE DAYS OF YOUR YOUTH, WERE YOU FIGHTING THE SAME FOE THAT WE DO NOW?

MAETEL ...

IS THIS NOT SO?

I BELIEVE YOU COME FROM THE ANCIENT TIME .... THAT WHOEVER OR WHATEVER CREATED YOU FOUGHT AGAINST WOTAN AND THE GODS OF VALHALLA ... AND THAT WE NOW SHARE A COMMON FOE ....

... MAETEL ...


SOME QUESTIONS ARE BEST LEFT UNANSWERED, YOUNG ONE.

AND SHAPED LIKE A DRAGON. REMEMBER THE LEGEND?

LOOKS LIKE THAT OLD TALE HAS COME TO LIFE.

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS! AT LEAST THAT EXPLAINS THOSE WEIRD ENERGY READINGS I GOT EARLIER. IT'S A SHIP INSIDE OF A SHIP!!!

AND SO THE SPACER'S LEGEND OF THE DRAGON GUARDING PLANET SIEGMUND HAS COME TO LIFE IN A VERY REAL SENSE. IT HAS PROVEN TO BE AS FEARSOME AND FORMIDABLE AN OPPONENT AS THE LEGENDS CLAIM; EVEN SO, THE DEATH SHADOW HAS MANAGED TO HOLD ITS OWN AGAINST IT. CAN IT GO THE DISTANCE AND DEFEAT ITS ENEMY? AND WHAT OF THE QUEEN EMERALDAS? CAN THE ANCIENT SHIP BE REPAIRED IN TIME TO JOIN GREAT HARLOCK'S FIGHT, SHOULD THE NEED WARRANT? ONLY TIME WILL TELL ....

Siegfried

Ring 48 ; Valhallan Date 9999.9.9

NOTHING IN THIS PHYSICAL UNIVERSE LASTS FOREVER. SUCH A THING IS IMPOSSIBLE BY THE LAWS OF NATURE. TO BE MORE PRECISE, THE ONLY CONSTANT IS TIME, AND IT ITSELF IS INFINITE. POWER, PRESTIGE, PROSPERITY -- ALL OF THESE ARE ABSURD ILLUSIONS OF THE PRESENT. TIME WILL WEAR EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE DOWN WITHIN OUR PHYSICALITY, AND IT IS EVER SO PATIENT. ANYONE WHO CLAIMS OTHERWISE - ANYONE WHO CLAIMS TO BE ETERNAL, OR OTHERWISE BEYOND TIME'S INEXORABLE GRIP - IS EITHER A MADMAN OR A FOOL.

BUT WILL NOT THE RETURN OF THE PLANET RHINE STIR MIIME'S BROTHER TO ACTION?
CAN'T BE HELPED, MY DEAR. THAT TOO IS PART OF THE PATTERN.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE MY FOOT ON YOUR FRAGILE NECK, YOU SAD EXCUSE FOR A MONKEY?!
AHHH ... JUST LIKE IT WAS IN THE OLD DAYS ... THE LAST TIME I HAD TO CALL THEM OUT.
I WONDER HOW GREAT HARLOCK FEELS NOW THAT MY TYRANOVULCAN DOGS HAVE HIM FIRMLY IN THEIR TEETH!

MIIME'S REPAIR AND PLAYING OF THE COSMIC ORGAN ON THE PLANET RHINE IS BUT THE START OF A CHANGE OF EVENTS IN TEMPORAL CAUSALITY THAT EVENTUALLY COME TO THIS DAY -- US SEEING IT HAPPEN.

WHAT JUST HAPPENED HERE IN VALHALLA CANNOT UNLESS MIIME ENDS UP ON THE PLANET RHINE, PLAYING ITS COSMIC ORGAN. IT IS BUT THE BENT RING SORTING ITSELF OUT, YOU MIGHT SAY.

OH, NEVER MIND ALL THAT. ANY WORD ON THE LOCATION OF MIIME'S BROTHER, ALBERICH?

WHAT I DID NOT EXPECT WAS HER FREEING BRUNHILDE AND HER SISTERS! THE THOUGHT ANGERS ME STILL!!!

IT DOESN'T MATTER! JUST FIND ME ONE OF THEM!!

EITHER ONE!

WHICH ONE, MY LORD WOTAN? THE ALBERICH OF THE PAST, OR OF THE PRESENT?

I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED AS MUCH! STILL CRYING IN HIS CUPS OVER THE LOSS OF THE RHINEGOLD?! BAH!!!

THE ALBERICH OF THE PRESENT, HE WHO STOLE THE RHINEGOLD, IS AT PRESENT HEADING FOR THE PLANET EARTH--

WHAT?! DID YOU SAY "ALREADY ON HIS WAY TO RHINE?"

THE ALBERICH OF THE PAST IS ON HIS WAY TO THE PLANET RHINE EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

MY LORD WOTAN, HIS SHIP IS IN WARP NOW. WE CANNOT GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM WHILE IT IS SO.

OUR AGENTS IN THE BENT RING REPORT THAT HE LEARNED OF THE RE-EMERGENCE OF THE PLANET RHINE ALMOST AS SOON AS IT HAPPENED.

JUMPING THE GUN A BIT -- AREN'T YOU, ALBERICH?

THE ALBERICH OF THE PAST WILL DEWARP AT VALHALLAN YEAR 9999.99.9, TIMESTAMP 9.09.09, WITH A MARGIN OF ERROR OF 0.9.

EXACTLY WHEN WILL ALBERICH'S SHIP COME OUT OF WARP?

ALL THOSE NINES ... THAT'S NO MERE CHANCE.

LEAVE ME. I WANT TO BE ALONE FOR A WHILE. TAKE A REST, ALL OF YOU.

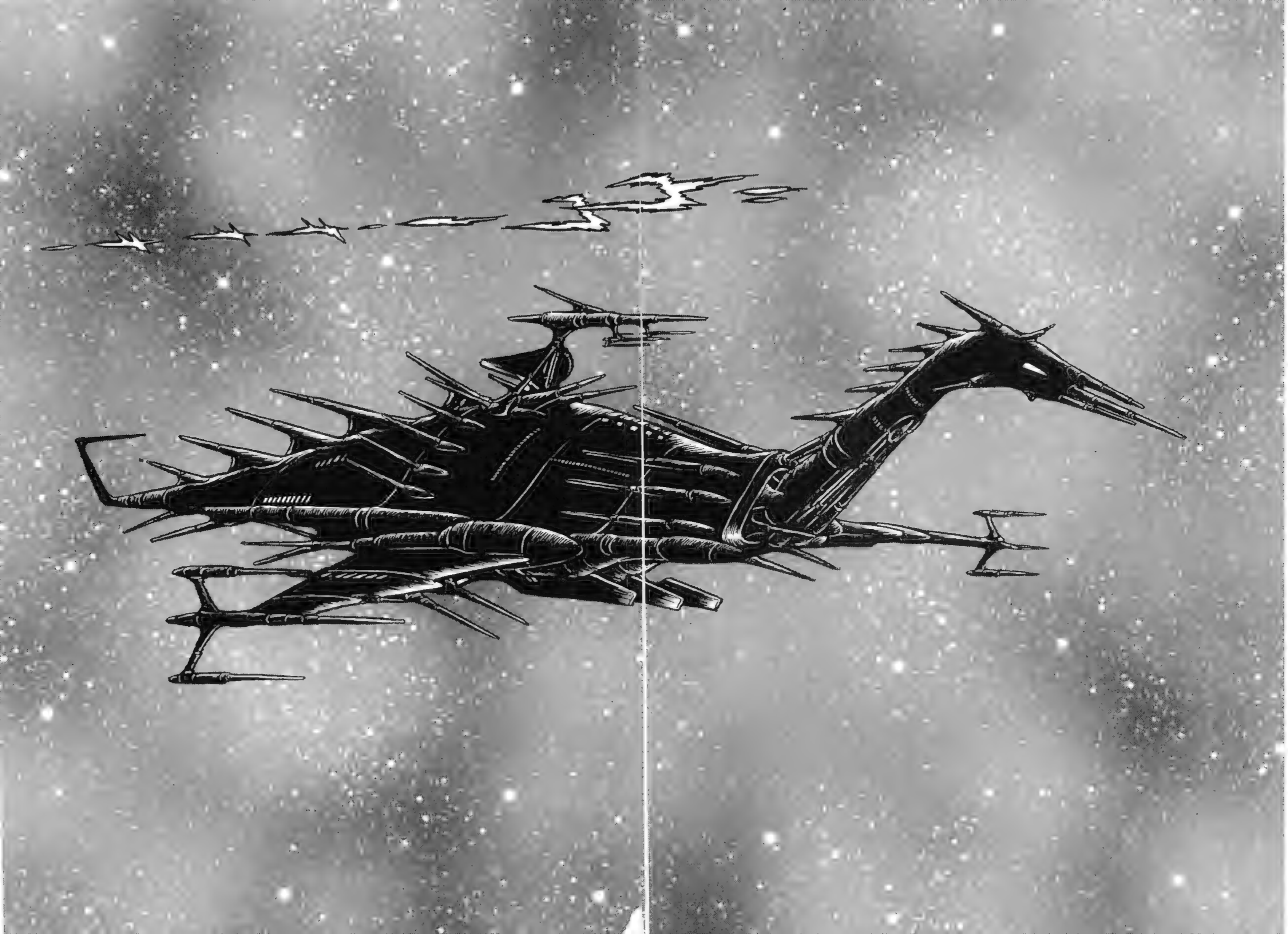
SO ... MY OLD FOE HEADS FOR EARTH WHILE HIS PAST SELF RUNS TO THE PLANET RHINE ....

... YET THE PATTERN FORMS AGAIN, AND NOT EVEN MY ATTEMPT TO BEND THAT RING OF TIME HAS CHANGED ITS OUTCOME.

SIGH ... IT IS SOMETIMES HARD TO KEEP ALL OF THESE POSSIBLE REALITIES AND TEMPORAL PARODOXES STRAIGHT ...

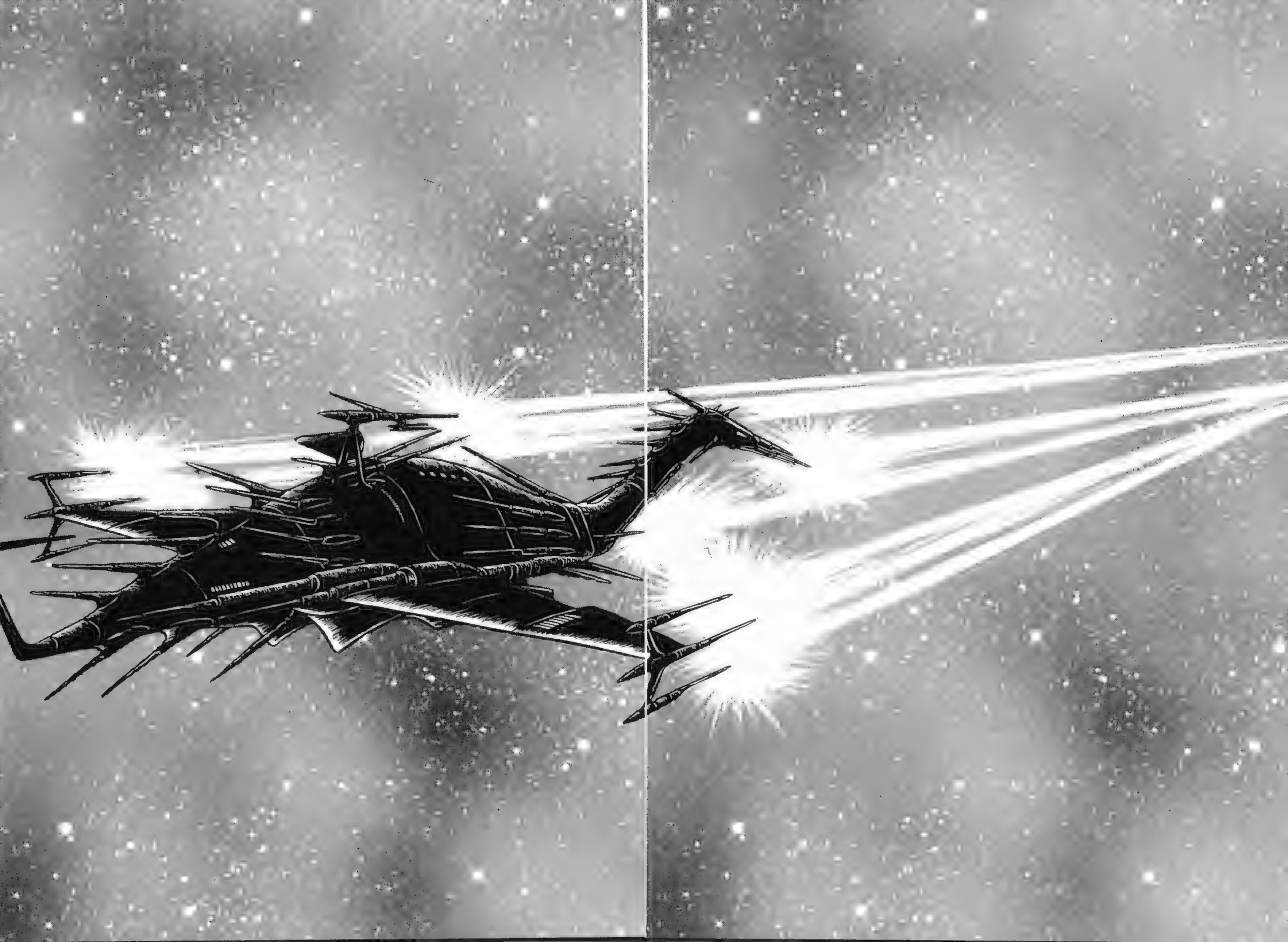
GREAT HARLOCK WILL DIE ... AND IN THAT I WILL HAVE MY RE-- WHAT'S THIS?! WHY HAVE THEY DROPPED THEIR CAMOFLAGUE?!

AT LEAST I CAN CONTENT MYSELF WITH ONE SMALL CHANGE.



THE UNIVERSE WILL NOT MOURN YOUR PASSING, NOR THAT OF DR. OYAMA, NOR YOUR TWO SONS ....

SO NOW YOU SEE YOUR FOE'S TRUE FACE, GREAT HARLOCK ....



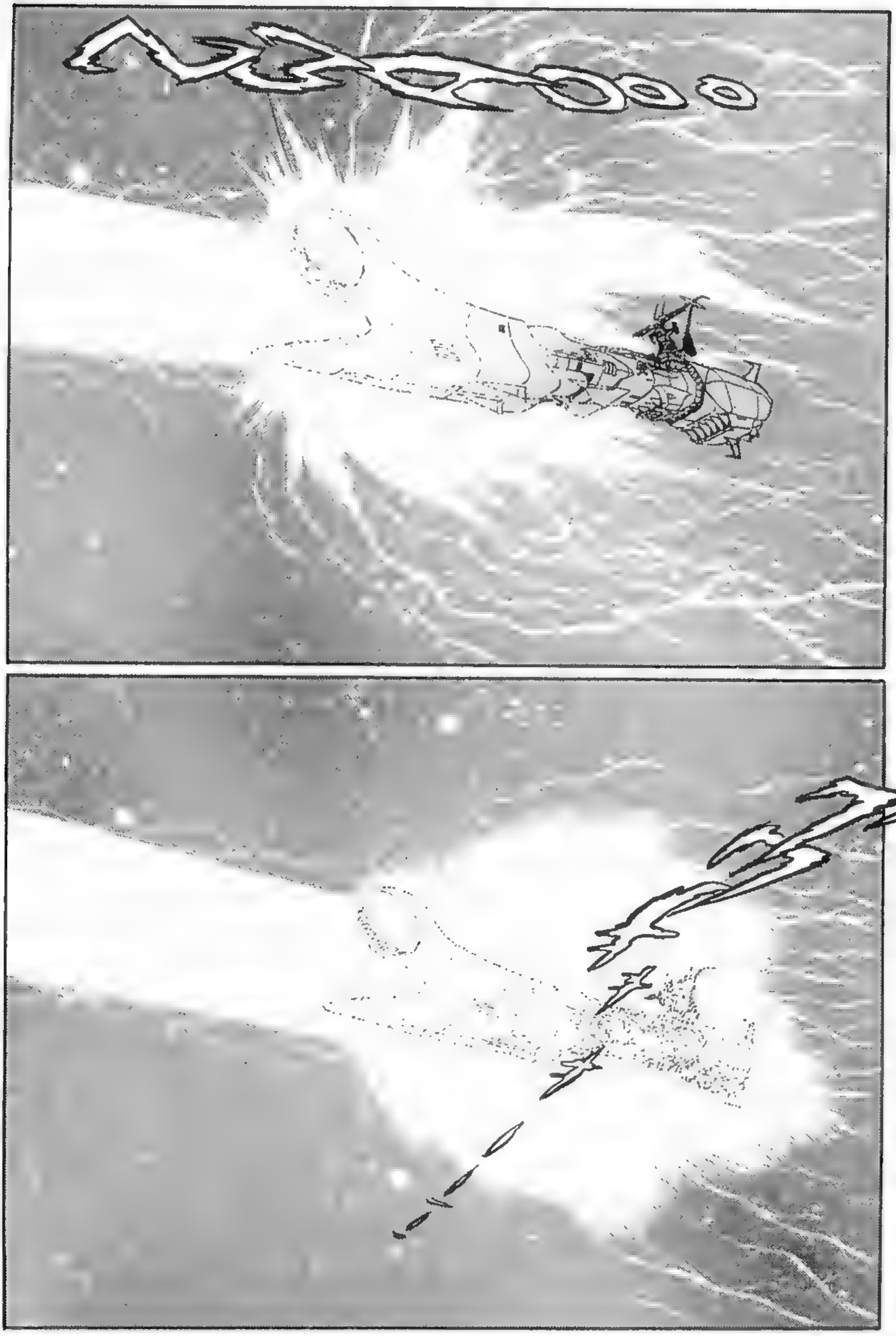
YEAH ... WE'VE BLOWN 'EM UP TWICE NOW, AND THEY PULL SOMETHING OUT OF THEIR ASS EACH TIME!

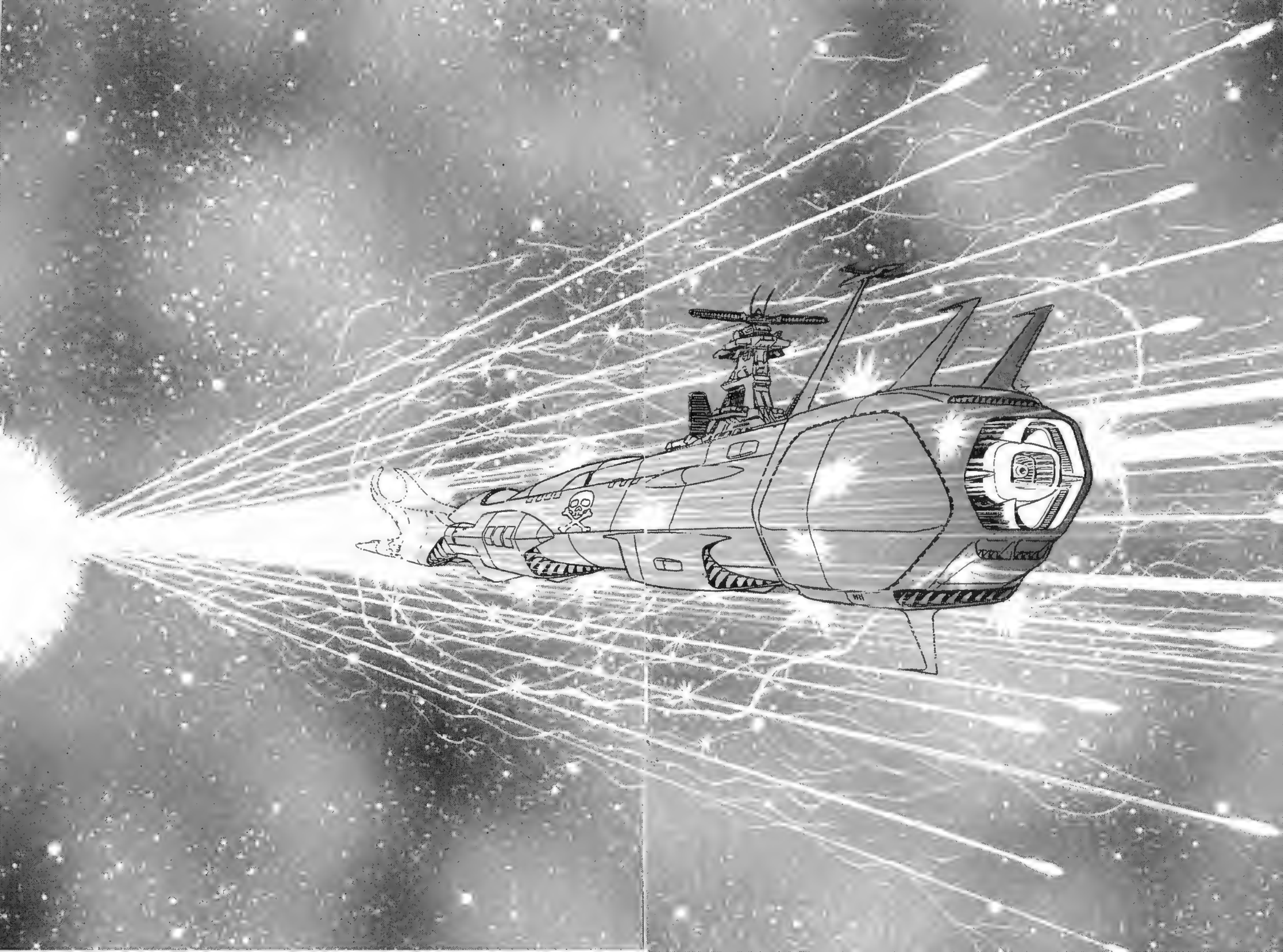
DAMN, BUT THOSE BASTARDS ARE TOUGH!

DIVERT ALL WEAPONS POWER TO SHIELDS, AND RAISE THEM TO THE MAX!!!

IT'S JUST LIKE THE END OF THE EARTH-COMETINE WAR ....

FIVE SECONDS UNTIL IMPACT. BETTER GRAB SOMETHING, BECAUSE THIS IS GONNA HIT US HARD!!!





YOU KNOW, PHANTOM, I'M STARTING TO GET REALLY PISSED OFF AT THESE FOOLS.

THAT DIDN'T EVEN SCRATCH OUR PAINT JOB, FELLAS. WHAT DO YOU THINK TOSHIRO?

SO YOU WANNA PLAY ROUGH?! I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT ROUGH IS!!!!

ALL SHOCK CANNON, PREPARE FOR RAPID FIRING ON MY MARK!!!

ooo

3000 AD

THE WINDS OF DESTINY STIR UP THE WAVES OF THE SEA OF STARS, AND ITS BREATH IS FELT ON EVERY ONE OF ITS MYRIAD BEACHES. TO THOSE WHOM IT CALLS TO A SPECIAL PURPOSE, ITS BREATH FILLS THEIR SAILS AND SENDS THEM ON INCREDIBLE JOURNEYS. SUCH A JOURNEY IS ALREADY UNDERWAY FOR GREAT HARLOCK AND DR. OYAMA, AND WILL SOON START FOR THEIR SONS, YOUNG HARLOCK AND TOCHIRO OYAMA.

THIS IS NO ILLUSION ... IT IS REALITY.

BRUNHILDE! WHY DID YOU BRING FREYA HERE?

PLEASE! HER HEALING IS NIGH COMPETE. PLEASE WATCH OVER HER UNTIL IT IS FINISHED. AS FOR ME ... I ... I MUST GO AND HELP GREAT HARLOCK. HE NEEDS ME. UNDERSTAND?

Siegfried

Ring 49 ; The Great Menace

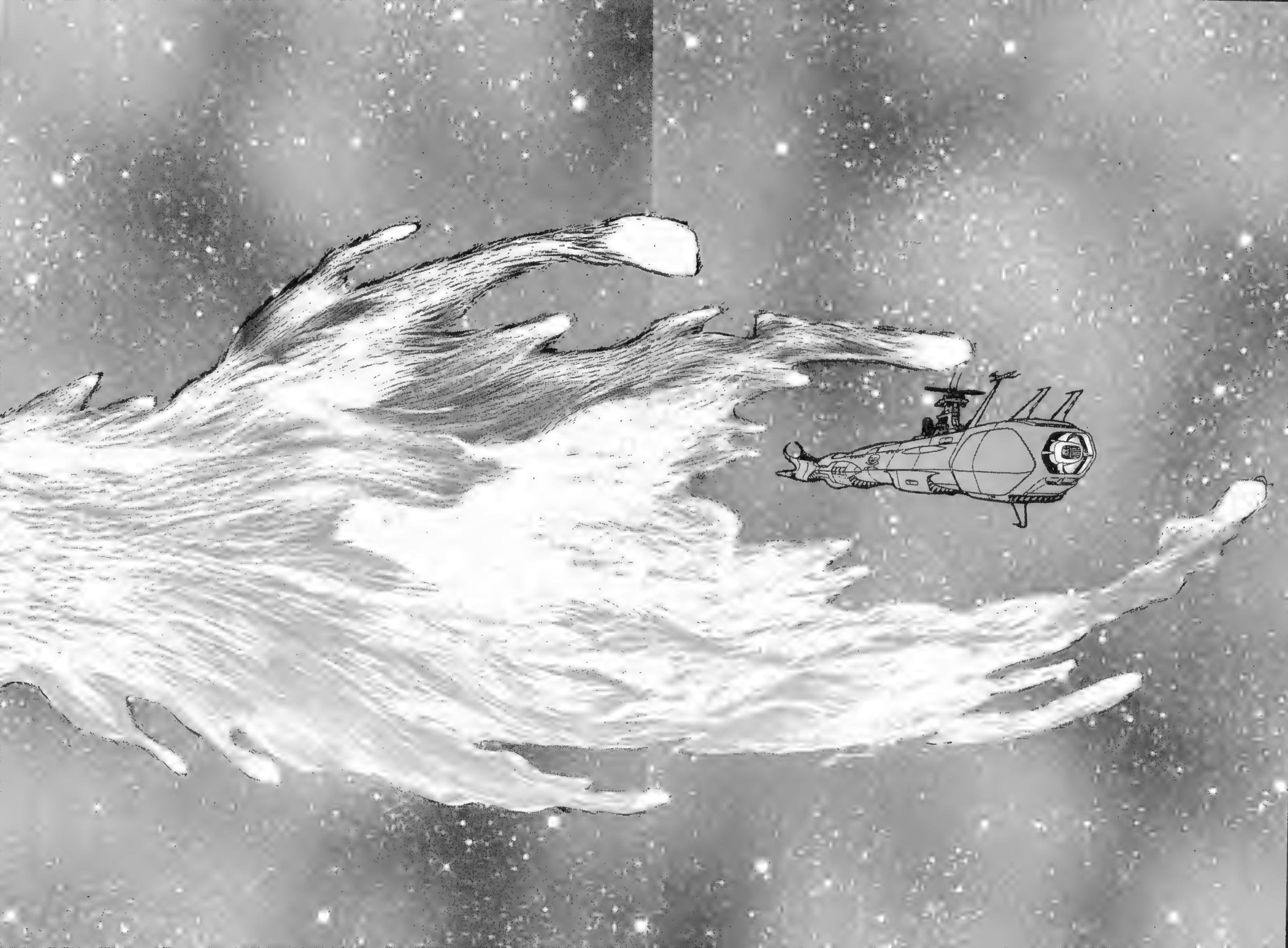
WHERE IS THE THREE-NINE TAKING THE VALKYRIES?

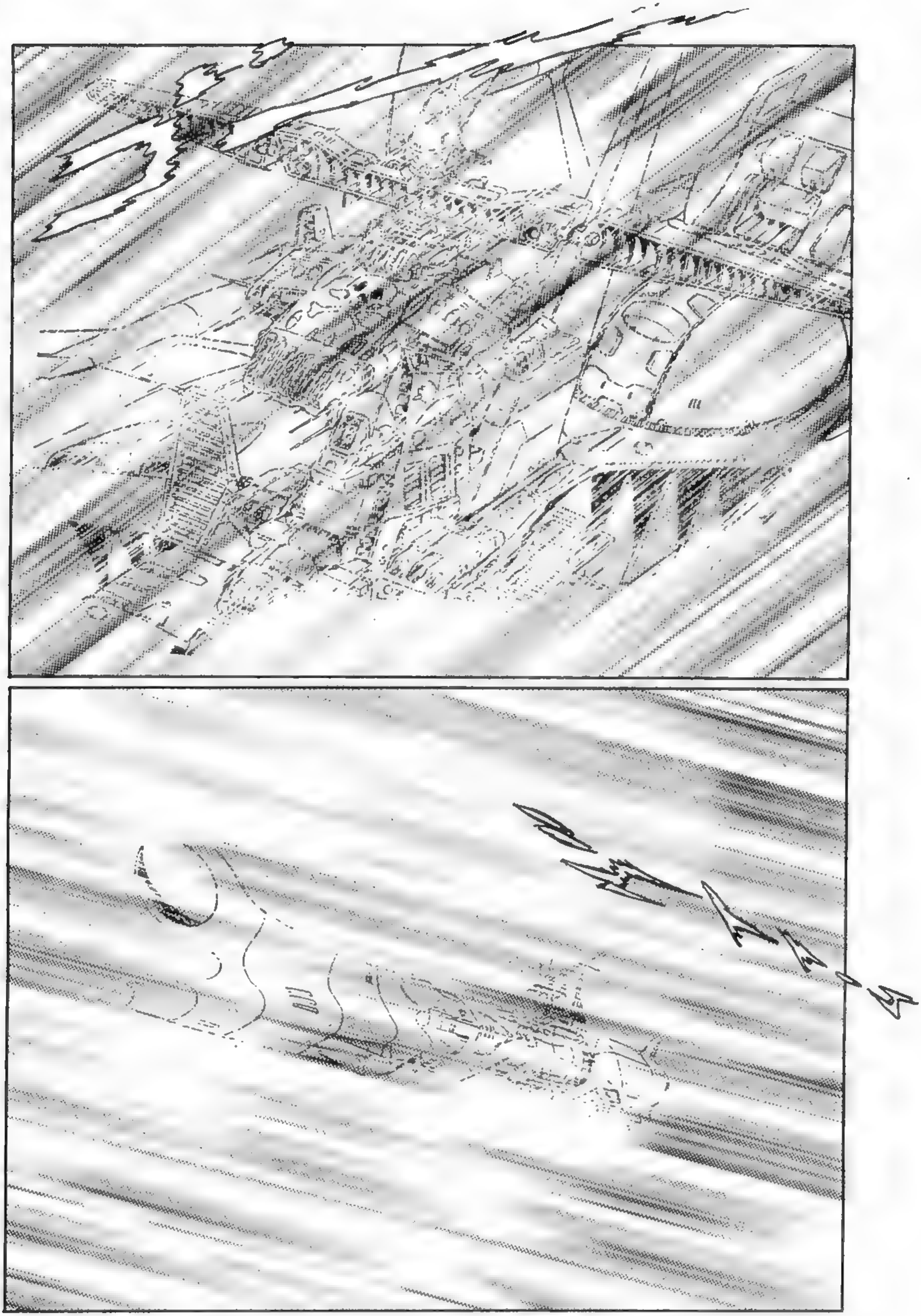
THEIR SHIPS HAVE BEEN OUTSIDE ON AUTOMATIC, PROTECTING US. IT'S TAKING THEM BACK TO THEM.

EACH OF US HAS TWO UNIQUE DESTINIES: THE ONE WE CAN AVOID, AND THE ONE WE CANNOT FIGHT. MANY LIVES ARE RUINED BY THE FAILURE TO PROPERLY DISCERN BETWEEN THE TWO. FOR BRUNHILDE THE VALKYRIE, HER PATH IS CLEAR ... AND HER CHOICE IS BOTH SWIFT AND SURE ....

DAMN! WHAT A WILD ENERGY SIGNATURE!! WHEN THAT THING BLEW UP, IT DIDN'T MESS AROUND, HARLOCK!!!

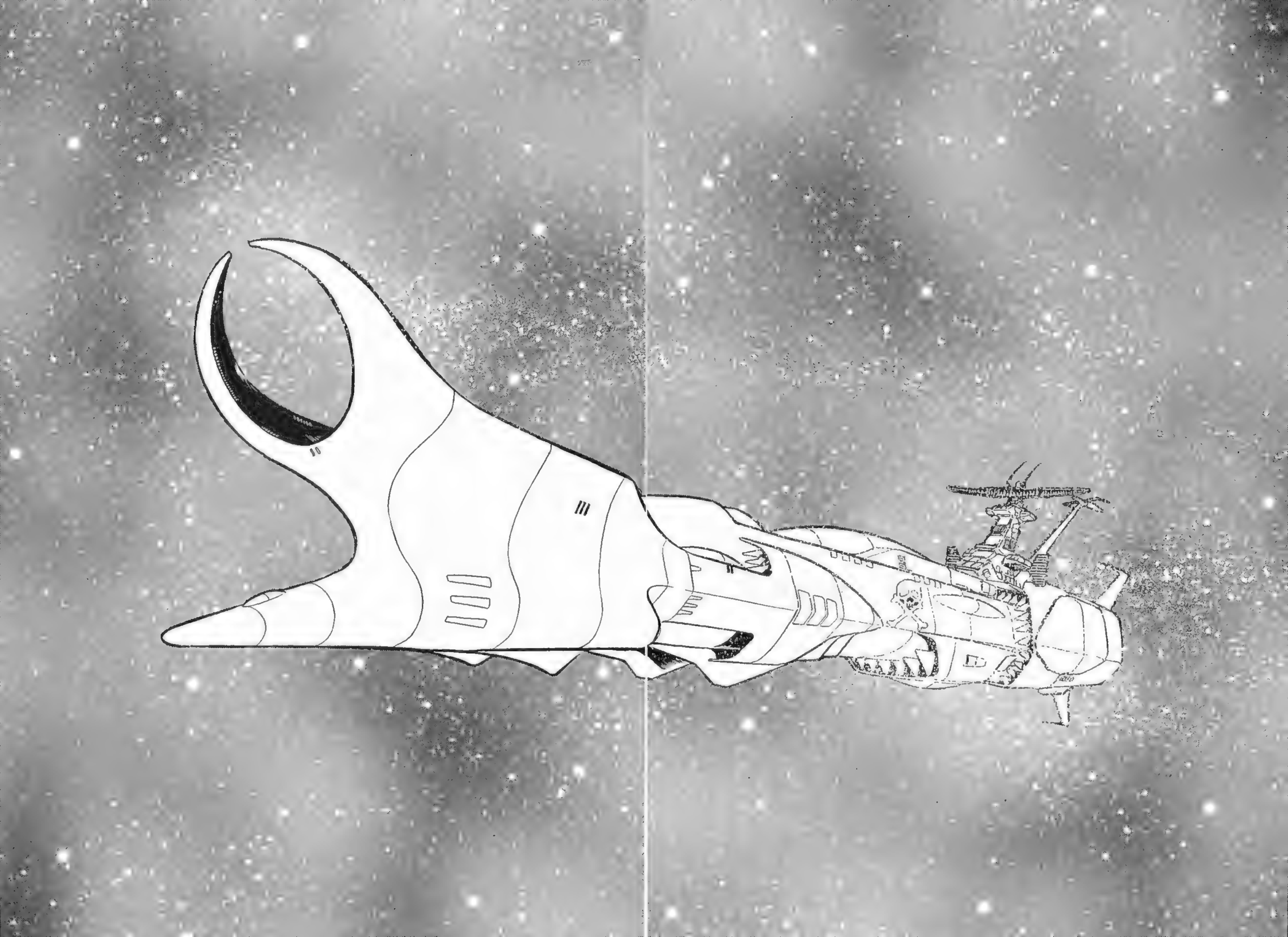
I'M GLAD OUR DADS WON TOO, TOCHIRO.





OR IN THIS CASE, MAYBE "PISSES" IS A BETTER WORD. DON'T WORRY. IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S EATING THROUGH THE ARMOR. BESIDES -- I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY OUT A GOLD PAINT JOB.

OH, JUST GREAT! YOU KILL A DRAGON, AND IT SHITS ALL OVER YOU AS IT DIES. THAT'S ONE THING THEY *DON'T* TELL YOU ABOUT IN THE OLD STORIES!



THAT IS NOT ALL, MY LORD. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED WORD FROM OUR METANOID SCOUTS THAT THE VALKYRIES ARE ON THEIR WAY TO THE SITE OF THE BATTLE.

WHAT?!?! THE TYRANOVULCAN BATTLESHIP HAS BEEN PULVERIZED? IMPOSSIBLE!!!

HRMPH! AT LEAST IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S WORTH SOMETHING NOW!

MY LORD WOTAN? IT SEEMS THAT THE HULL OF THE DEATH SHADOW HAS NOW BEEN COATED WITH SOME OF THE MICRODEBRIS FROM THE DESTROYED SHIP. THAT IS WHY IT HAS A GOLDEN SHEEN.

OH, GIRL! MY SWEET BRUNHILDE! WHY BETRAY ME? WHY CONTINUE TO BETRAY ME? YOU ARE FLESH OF MY FLESH, BLOOD OF MY BLOOD! WHY?!

COME TO THINK OF IT ... THAT WILL MAKE IT THAT MUCH EASIER FOR MY BRUNHILDE TO FIND ....

AND NOW YOU RUN TO YOUR MORTAL LOVER, WHO HAS BRAVED THE RING OF FIRE TO SAVE YOU ...

... LIKE THE EARTH LEGEND OF OLD. WILL IT END THE SAME WAY? NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!

WE'RE ALMOST THERE. CAN YOU TRANSFER THE COORDINATES OF THE BATTLE ZONE?

... AND ALL THE FIRING STOPPED. WE COULDN'T PICK IT UP AFTER THAT. SENDING NOW ....

AS CLOSE AS WE CAN, BRUNHILDE. WE ONLY GOT ONE BRIEF GLIMPSE OF THE DEATH SHADOW BEFORE THE BATTLE ENDED ...

IT SHOULD BE THERE, BUT WE CAN'T READ IT!

NOT EXACTLY, MY LORD WOTAN ....

THEY CANNOT FIND THE DEATH SHADOW? BUT WE CAN SEE IT PLAINLY ENOUGH! ARE THEY USING RESIDUAL ECM FROM THE BATTLE?

AH, SO HE'S COME OUT OF WARP! BY ALL MEANS, SHOW THEM ON IN!

MY LORD, AN EMMISARY FROM THE ALBERICH EN ROUTE TO THE PLANET RHINE.

"THIS TIME, THE RHINEGOLD IS NOT SOME COUNTERFEIT BLOB OF YOURS!!!"

HE SAYS, "WHY DO YOU SEEK TO INTERFERE WITH ME, OLD MAN? I HAVE A MISSION TO FULFILL!

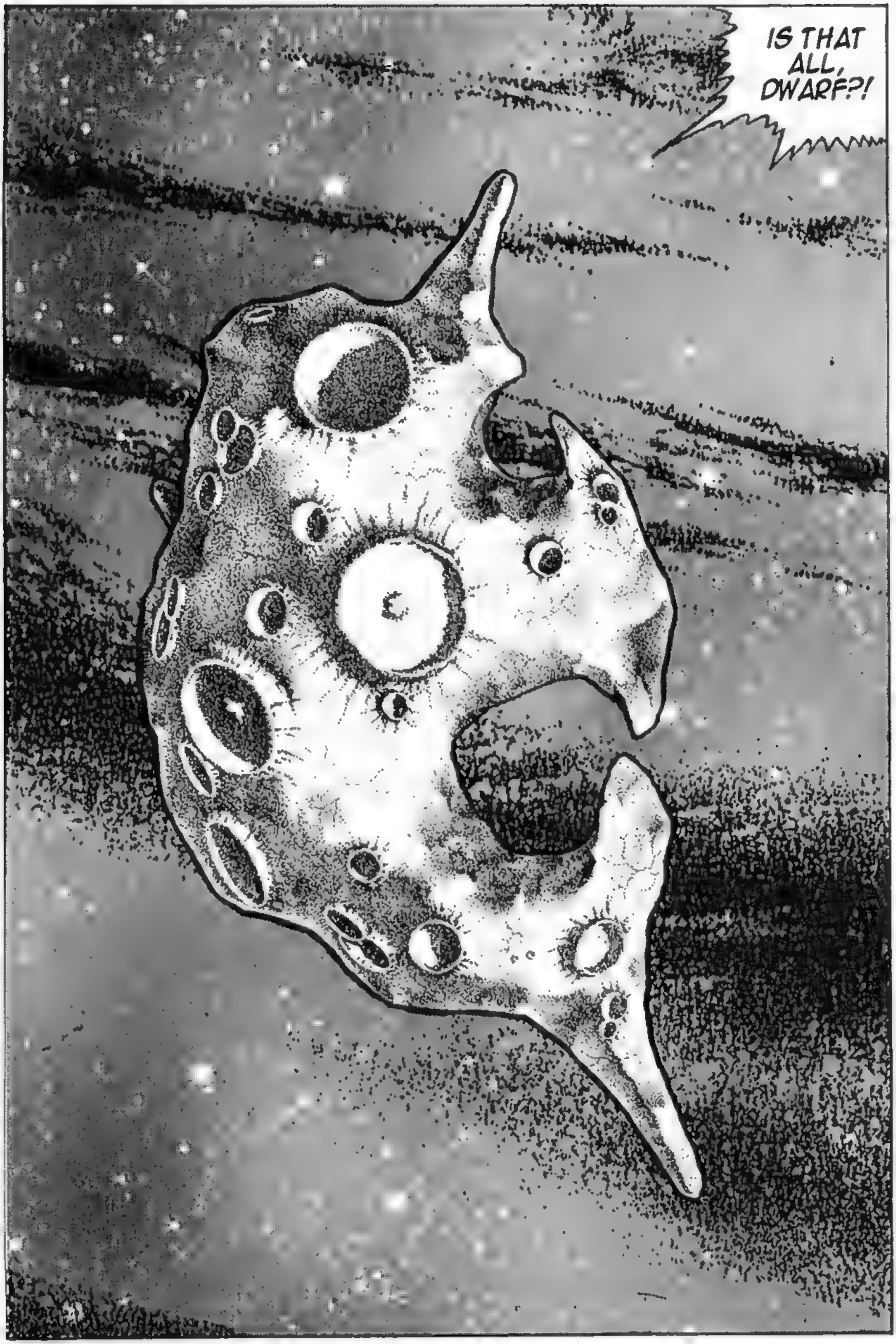
I KNOW.

"WOULD THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR CURRENT PROBLEMS, 'LORD WOTAN?' YOUR DAUGHTERS? THAT SPACE PIRATE AND HIS MOTLEY BAND OF ADVENTURERS?"

HE ADDS, "THIS IS THE REAL THING! I DO NOT KNOW HOW OR WHY IT HAS RETURNED TO THE UNIVERSE, BUT IT IS BACK, AND THAT IS ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME! I WILL HAVE IT, AND YOU CANNOT STOP ME!

WHAT IS IT -- AS IF I HAD TO ASK?

"DO YOU SEE HELP FROM ME, KNOWING I WANT NOTHING LESS THAN YOUR TOTAL DESTRUCTION?! MY PRICE IS HIGH, BUT IS STILL WITHIN YOUR REACH.


IS THAT ALL, DWARF?!

OUR LORD ALBERICH IS ALSO CURIOUS AS TO WHAT IS HAPPENING ON THE GALACTIC RIM BEYOND THE RECENT BATTLE.

IS HE, NOW? WELL, YOU JUST TELL HIM THAT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM, OR HIS SAD LITTLE POWER GRAB.

... BUT WHAT I HAVE BREWING OUT THERE WILL SHAKE THE VERY STARS. HE MAY ENJOY HIS TIME WHILE HE CAN.

THIS IS A MATTER THAT GOES BEYOND HIS FEEBLE LITTLE MIND. HE CAN CONTENT HIMSELF WITH HIS PETTY POWER GAMES ...

... AND THAT I ALONE CONTROL IT. YOUR MASTER HAS NO PRAYER AGAINST IT.

LET US SAY THAT I HAVE DISCOVERED A FORCE THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE EVEN GREATER THAN THE RHINEGOLD ...

THE POWER I AM BRINGING INTO THIS UNIVERSE WILL DESTROY HIM, EVEN IF HE HAS THE RHINEGOLD!!!

TELL HIM TO GO AHEAD! STEAL THE RHINEGOLD, IF HE CAN! IT WILL AVAIL HIM NOT!!!

HENCEFORTH, VALHALLA WILL FEAR NO FOE!!!

I SUMMONED THEM EVEN AS GREAT HARLOCK'S BATTLE WITH THE TYRANOVULCAN SHIP WAS STILL RAGING.

GREAT HARLOCK WILL BE SWELLED WITH PRIDE IN HIS APPARENT VICTORY ... AND THAT ONLY ENSURES HIS DOWNFALL! HIS NEXT FOE WILL CRUSH THAT TOY SHIP OF HIS LIKE A BUG UNDER ONE'S FOOT!!!

WHY? WON'T THAT PLANET RHINE GO BACK TO WHERE IT CAME FROM WITHOUT HER PLAYING THAT ORGAN?

I THINK IT'S TIME WE GO PICK UP MIIME, TOSHIRO.

I THINK WOTAN'S PLANNING A RAID OF SOME KIND ON THE PLANET RHINE. MIIME WILL BE SAFER WITH US.

IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT, IF WHAT MIIME SAID EARLIER IS TRUE. BESIDES, I'VE GOT AN UNEASY FEELING ABOUT THOSE CODED MESSAGES COMING FROM VALHALLA ...

Y'KNOW, PHANTOM ... THIS COATING ON THE HULL BOTHERS ME, AND I DON'T KNOW WHY.

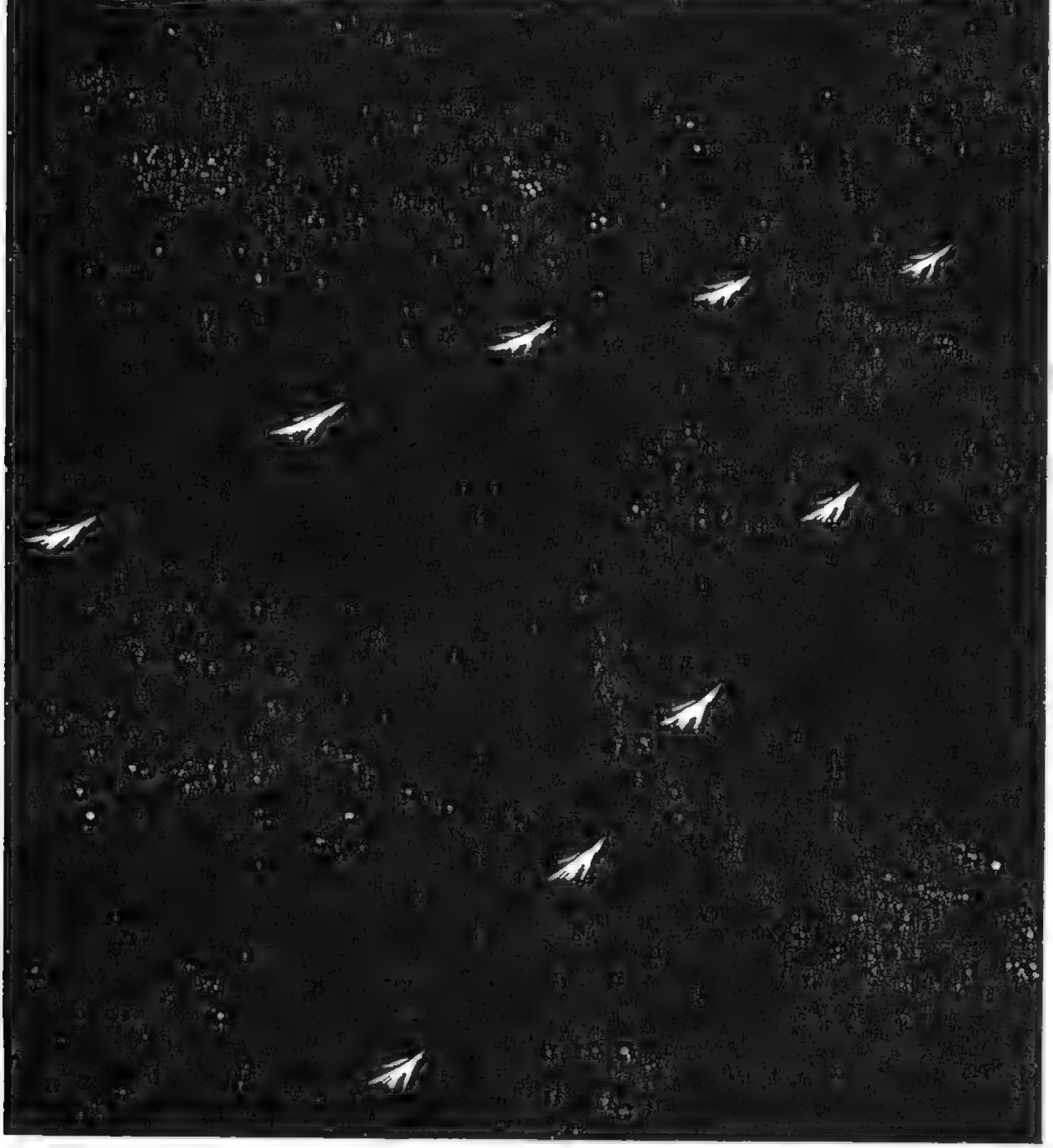
FINE WITH ME. BESIDES, I MISS HAVING SOMEONE OF THE FAIRER SEX TO DRINK WITH, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

PERHAPS IT WAS FORESIGHT THAT CAUSED THE DOUBTS OF DR. OYAMA. PERHAPS HE SENSED, BETTER THAN GREAT HARLOCK, THE NEW THREAT THAT WAS RAPIDLY APPROACHING THEM FROM BEYOND THE RIM. ONE SHOULD NEVER IGNORE SUCH FEELINGS ... ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAVE PROVEN A GOOD GUIDE IN THE PAST -- OR WHENEVER DESTINY IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED ....

Siegfried

Ring 50 ; Wotan's Watchdogs

LIKE AN INFERNO OF WHITE FIRE TEARING ACROSS THE HEAVENS, BRUNHILDE AND HER EIGHT SISTER VALKYRIES RACE TO THE SCENE OF THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE DEATH SHADOW AND THE SPACE BATTLESHIP OF THE TYRANOVULCANS. THIS IN ITSELF WOULD BE A MOMENTOUS EVENT – THE LEGENDARY VALKYRIES COMING TO THE AID OF A MORTAL VESSEL ... BUT EVEN GREATER THINGS ARE IN STORE FOR THE SON OF THE MAN WHO IS THE CAPTAIN OF THAT SHIP ... A MAN NAMED HARLOCK.



THIS IS VALKYRIE LEADER BRUNHILDE TO ALL PILOTS.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YES! THE OTHERS AND THEIR FRIENDS CAN WATCH OVER FREYA!

BUT SISTER, OUR PLACE IS WITH YOU!

THIS IS MY FIGHT, NOT YOURS. GO BACK AND WATCH OVER FREYA AND THE BOYS.

THOSE TWO BOYS AND FREYA ARE KEYS TO AN EVEN GREATER DESTINY! MINE IS TO SEE IT IS FULFILLED! DO NOT GET CAUGHT IN MY WAKE!!!

DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND? THIS IS MY DESTINY, NOT YOURS -- MY DECISION, AND MINE ALONE!

... AND THAT HIS FRIEND WILL BUILD THE SHIP THAT WILL TAKE HIM THERE! I MUST MAKE SURE THAT HAPPENS!!

YOU KNOW THAT ONE DAY GREAT HARLOCK'S SON, YOUNG HARLOCK WILL GROW INTO A GREAT HERO WHO IS DESTINED TO CHALLENGE OUR FATHER ...

IF SHE DIES, THEN NO ONE FRIENDLY TO VALHALLA WILL BE LEFT TO PLAY ITS COSMIC ORGAN!!!

AND WHAT OF FREYA, THE ORGAN PLAYER?!

GO BACK!!!

I BEG YOU ALL ...

... THIS IS MY PATH, MY FIGHT -- NOT YOURS.

THANK YOU, SISTERS ...

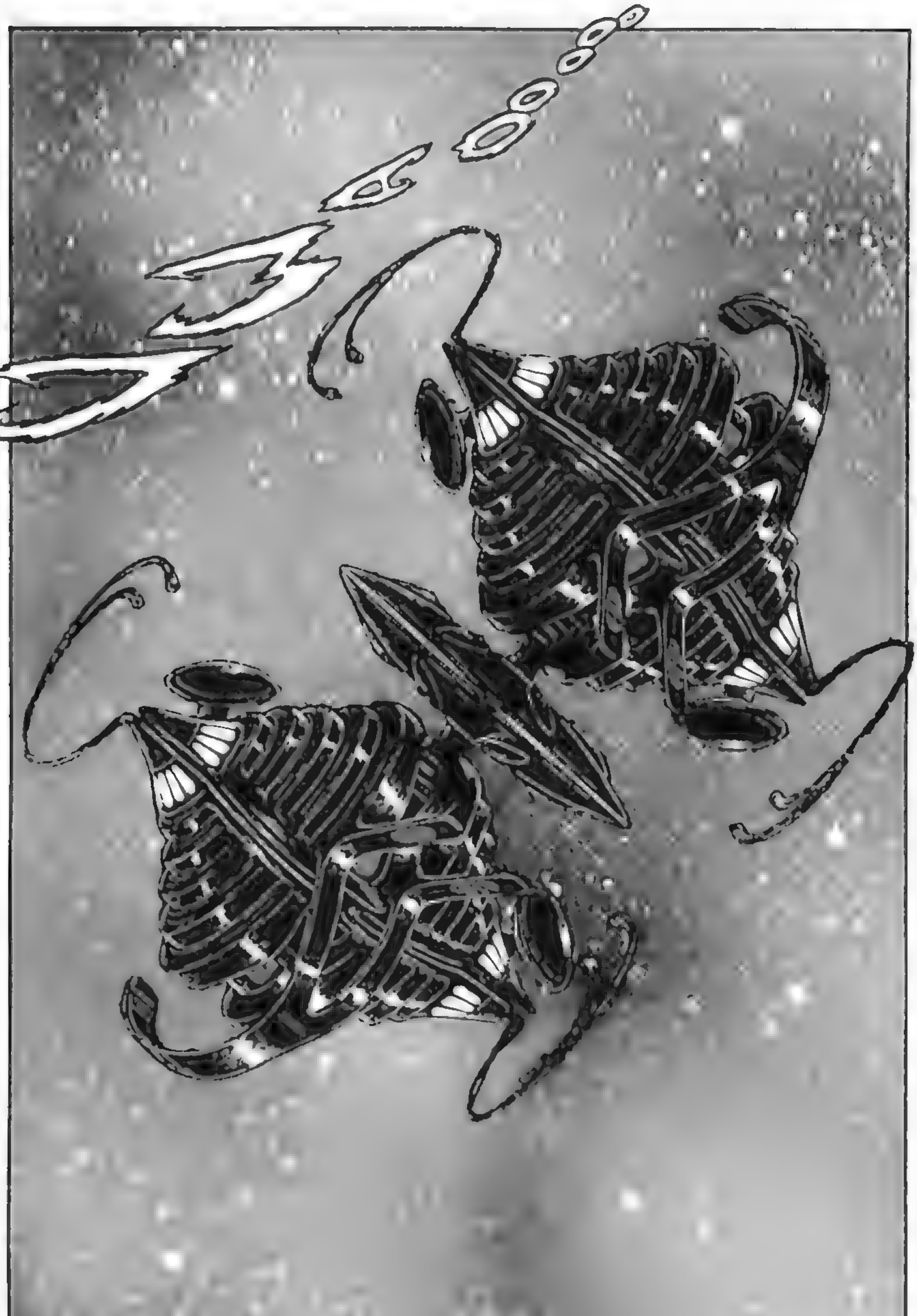
TOCHIRO? CHECK OUT THE LONG RANGE SENSORS. SOMETHING IS FOLLOWING OUR LATE FOE'S WAKE.

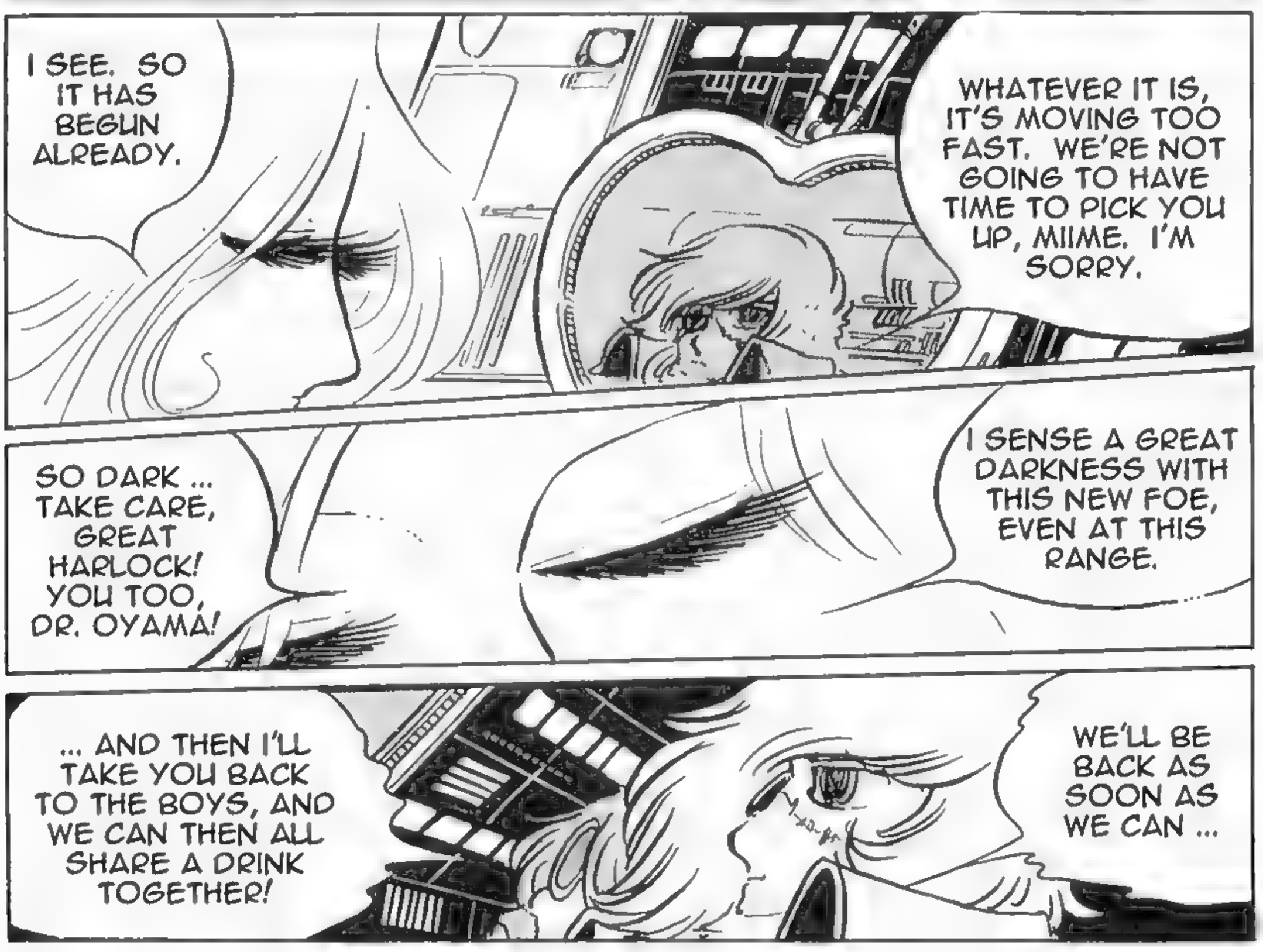
MY WORK HERE IS DONE, AND THERE IS NO WINE TO DRINK. IT WILL BE GOOD TO GET BACK.

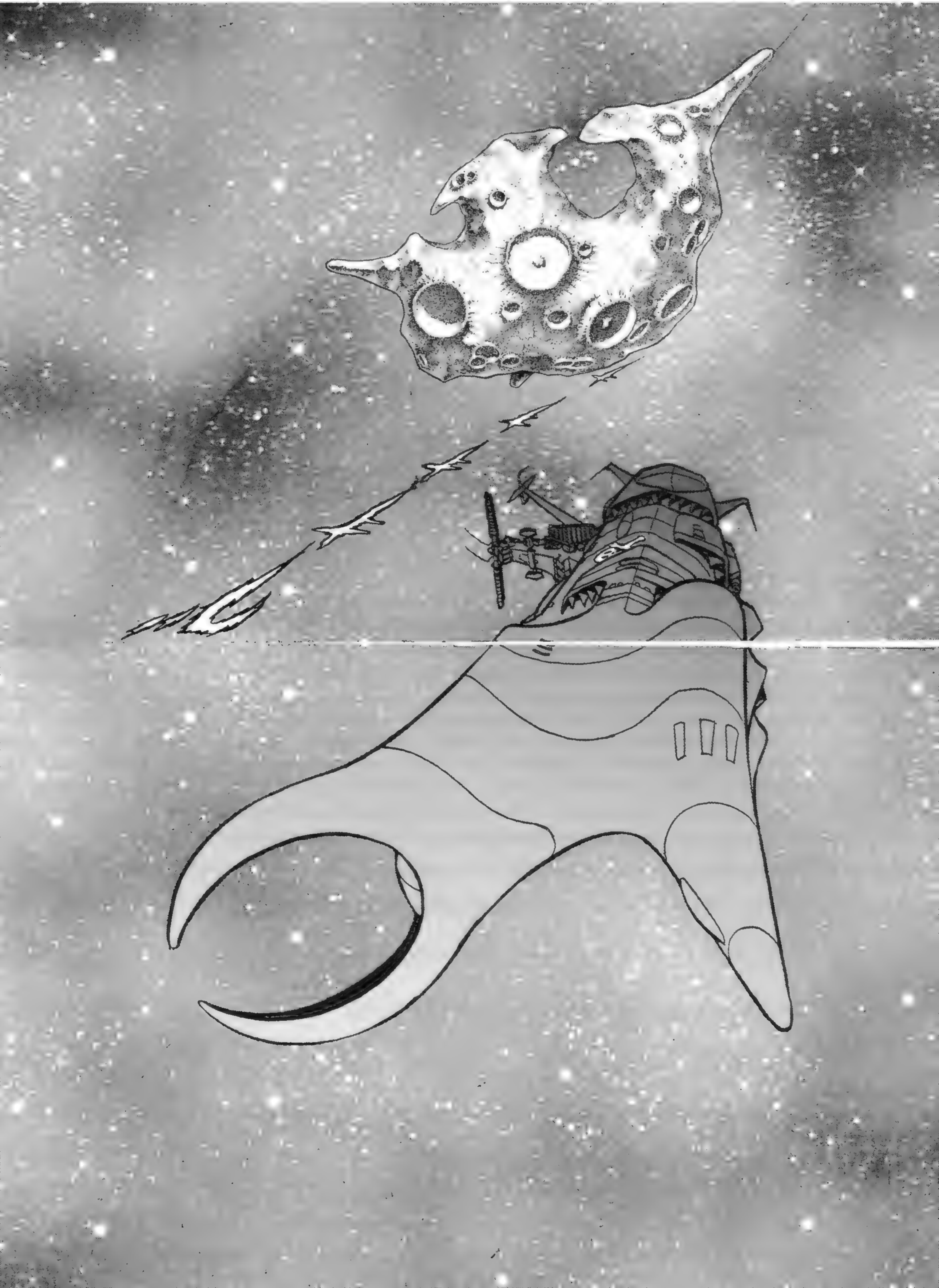
YOU GOTTA GET OUTTA THERE. WOTAN IS PLANING SOME KIND OF ATTACK ON RHINE!

MIIME? THIS IS GREAT HARLOCK. CAN YOU READ ME?

I READ YOU. WHAT IS IT?




I SEE. SO IT HAS BEGUN ALREADY.
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S MOVING TOO FAST. WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE TIME TO PICK YOU UP, MIIME. I'M SORRY.
SO DARK ... TAKE CARE, GREAT HARLOCK! YOU TOO, DR. OYAMA!
I SENSE A GREAT DARKNESS WITH THIS NEW FOE, EVEN AT THIS RANGE.
... AND THEN I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO THE BOYS, AND WE CAN THEN ALL SHARE A DRINK TOGETHER!
WE'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS WE CAN ...



I DON'T LIKE THE WAY MIIME WAS TALKING ABOUT THIS NEW SHIP. WHAT COULD IT BE?
JUST WHEN WE THOUGH IT WAS ALL OVER, PHANTOM, HERE WE GO AGAIN!

ANOTHER SHIP JUST POPPED OUT OF WARP, HARLOCK!

NO. THAT ONE'S STILL CLOSING. THIS IS A NEWCOMER.

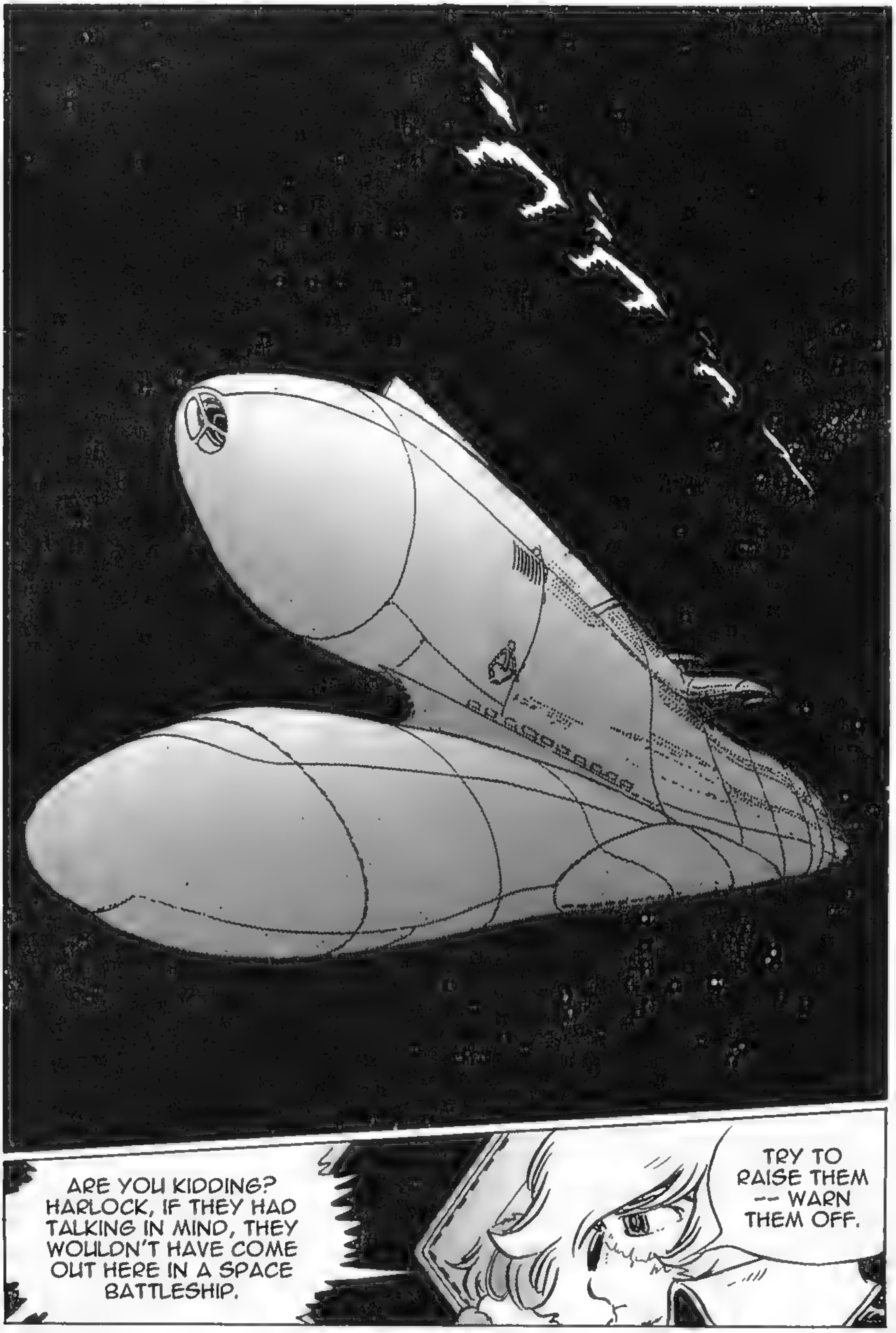
SPACE BATTLESHIP OF NORMAL DESIGN. THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU SAW.

... HE AIN'T FLYIN' NOTHIN' WE CAN'T AND HAVEN'T BEAT ALREADY!

WELL, WHOEVER DECIDED TO CRASH THE PARTY ...

MAYBE IT'S THE FIRST OF THE TREASURE SEEKERS! THE ONES WHO WANT TO CLAIM THE RHINEGOLD FOR THEMSELVES!

MAYBE ...


ARE YOU KIDDING? HARLOCK, IF THEY HAD TALKING IN MIND, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE COME OUT HERE IN A SPACE BATTLESHIP.
TRY TO RAISE THEM -- WARN THEM OFF.

NOPE -- NOT WITH ONE KNOWN AND ANOTHER POTENTIAL ENEMY ON THE SCOPES.

YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE. WELL, I GUESS THERE'S NO PUTTING IT OFF.

BRING THE CREW TO BATTLE STATIONS!

SOUND GENERAL QUARTERS!

GOOD! NOW GO AHEAD AND GIVE THEM A WARNING HAIL, JUST SO THEY'LL KNOW WHAT THEY'RE FACING.

ALL HANDS AT COMBAT STATIONS. THE SHIP IS BATTLE READY.

THIS IS THE DEATH SHADOW STAND TO OR WE WILL OPEN FIRE!!!

HOLD YOUR FIRE, TOSHIRO. LET'S SEE WHAT HE'LL DO NEXT.

HE'S IN OUR SIGHTS -- IT WOULD BE SO EASY!

I TAKE IT I AM SPEAKING TO GREAT HARLOCK, THE CAPTAIN OF THE DEATH SHADOW? THE VICTOR OVER THE TYRANOVULCAN BATTLESHIP?

I AM PRINCE ALBERICH OF THE NIBELUNGEN, INVESTINGATING THE SUDDEN REAPPEARANCE OF THE PLANET RHINE.

COULD BE. LET'S HEAR HIM OUT, BUT STAND BY ON YOUR GUNS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, HARLOCK? IS HE TELLING THE TRUTH?

IS THAT SO? I'D LIKE TO HEAR WHY.

I HAVE AN ANCIENT CLAIM ON THE PLANET RHINE, AND I AM HERE TO COLLECT IT.

I HAVE AS MUCH RIGHT TO BE HERE AS DO YOU, IF NOT MORE.

WHY DO YOU STAND IN MY WAY, GREAT HARLOCK?

YOU SEE, ALBERICH, YOUR SISTER IS A FRIEND OF OURS. WE KNOW THE WHOLE STORY, AND YOU CAN'T HAVE IT.

WHAT-- HOW-- BUT YOU--

WOULD IT BE THE RHINEGOLD, PERCHANCE?

YOU MAY NOT! IT IS MY BUSINESS ALONE!

GREAT HARLOCK, I RESPECT YOUR REPUTATION, BUT IF YOU DON'T SILENCE YOUR MONKEY THEN I'LL HAVE TO DO IT FOR YOU!

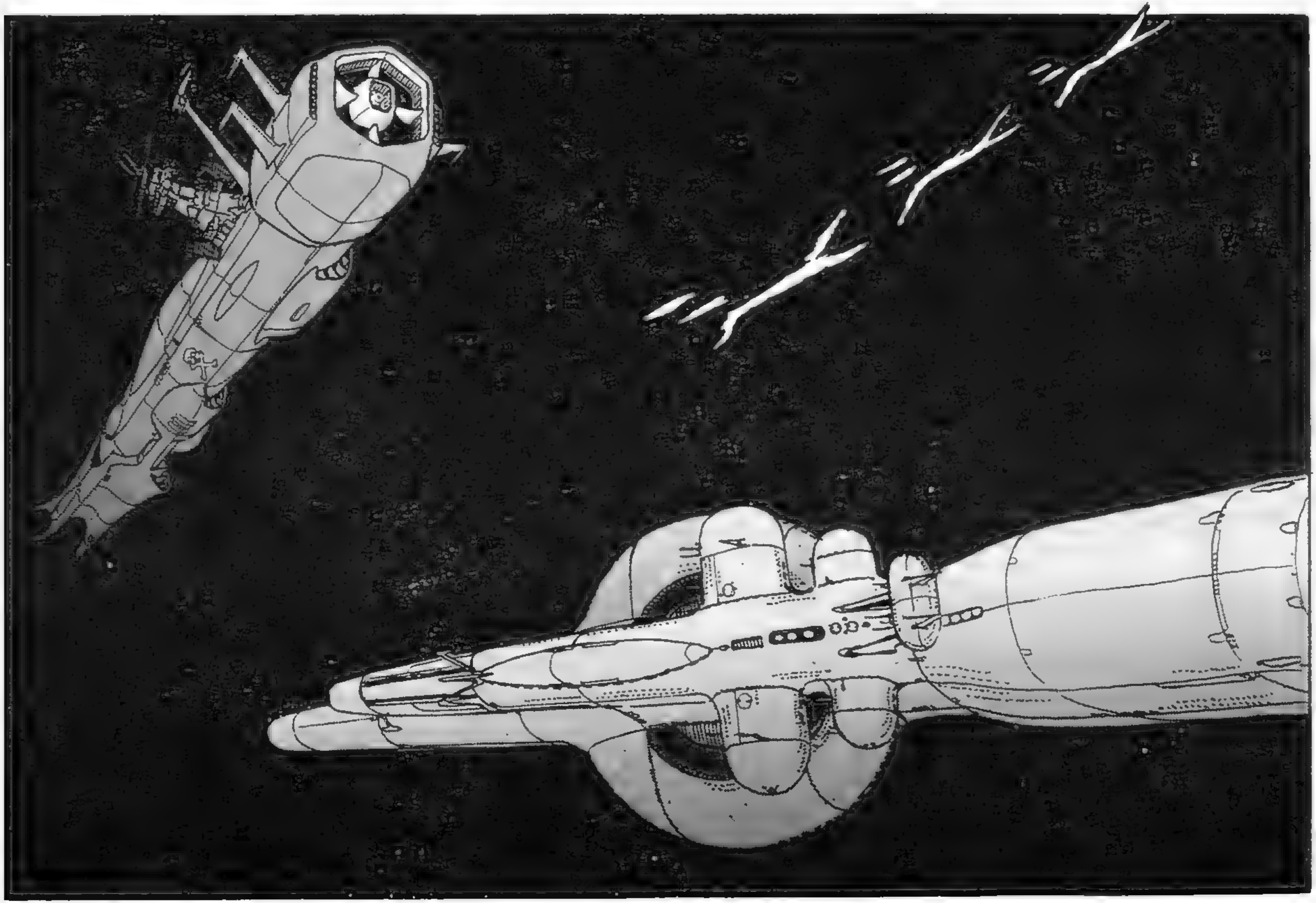
IS THAT SO? I AM PRINCE ALBERICH OF THE NIBELUNGEN. I DO NOT BANDY WORDS WITH LITTLE FOOLS!

I WOULD ADVISE YOU TO TURN BACK NOW, WHILE YOU CAN, UNLESS YOU WANT A FIGHT. I WILL NOT LET YOU TAKE THE RHINEGOLD.

THAT "MONKEY" JUST HAPPENS TO BE MY CHIEF ENGINEER ... AND I HAPPEN TO SHARE HIS POINT OF VIEW.

... AND FRANKLY WE DON'T KNOW WHO'S SIDE IT'S ON. MIGHT BE WOTAN'S, MIGHT NOT. SO IF YOU DON'T WANT A FIGHT ON TWO FRONTS, IT MIGHT BE BEST TO BACK OFF ... DWARF.

OH, AND IN CASE YOU'VE BEEN TOO BUSY INSULTING ME TO NOTICE, THERE'S ANOTHER EXTRAGALACTIC WARSHIP THAT'LL DROP IN REAL SOON ...



... BUT YOUR LITTLE PET IS TRYING TO PROVOKE ME. NOT TODAY ....

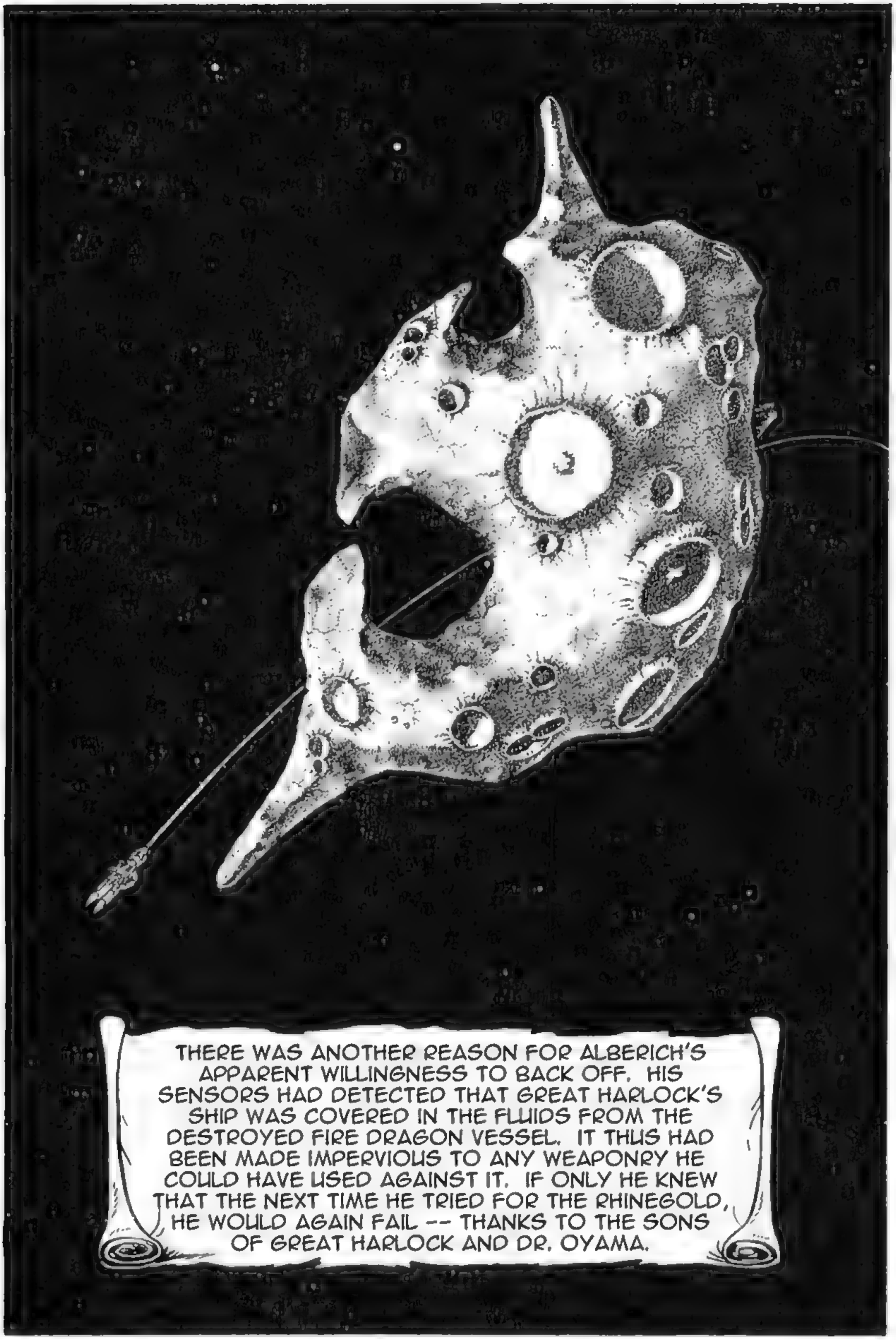
HOW ... HOW DARE YOU ...

I DO NOT FIGHT POINTLESS BATTLES. AS YOU SAID, FIGHTING ON TWO FRONTS IS A SURE WAY TO DEFEAT.

SOMEDAY, I WILL BE BACK ... AND WHEN I DO, IT SHALL BE MINE!

YOU CANNOT GUARD THE RHINEGOLD FOREVER!

HA-HA-HA-HA-HAH!!!


THERE WAS ANOTHER REASON FOR ALBERICH'S APPARENT WILLINGNESS TO BACK OFF. HIS SENSORS HAD DETECTED THAT GREAT HARLOCK'S SHIP WAS COVERED IN THE FLUIDS FROM THE DESTROYED FIRE DRAGON VESSEL. IT THUS HAD BEEN MADE IMPERVIOUS TO ANY WEAPONRY HE COULD HAVE USED AGAINST IT. IF ONLY HE KNEW THAT THE NEXT TIME HE TRIED FOR THE RHINEGOLD, HE WOULD AGAIN FAIL -- THANKS TO THE SONS OF GREAT HARLOCK AND DR. OYAMA.

Siegfried

Ring 51 ; A Dark Swath

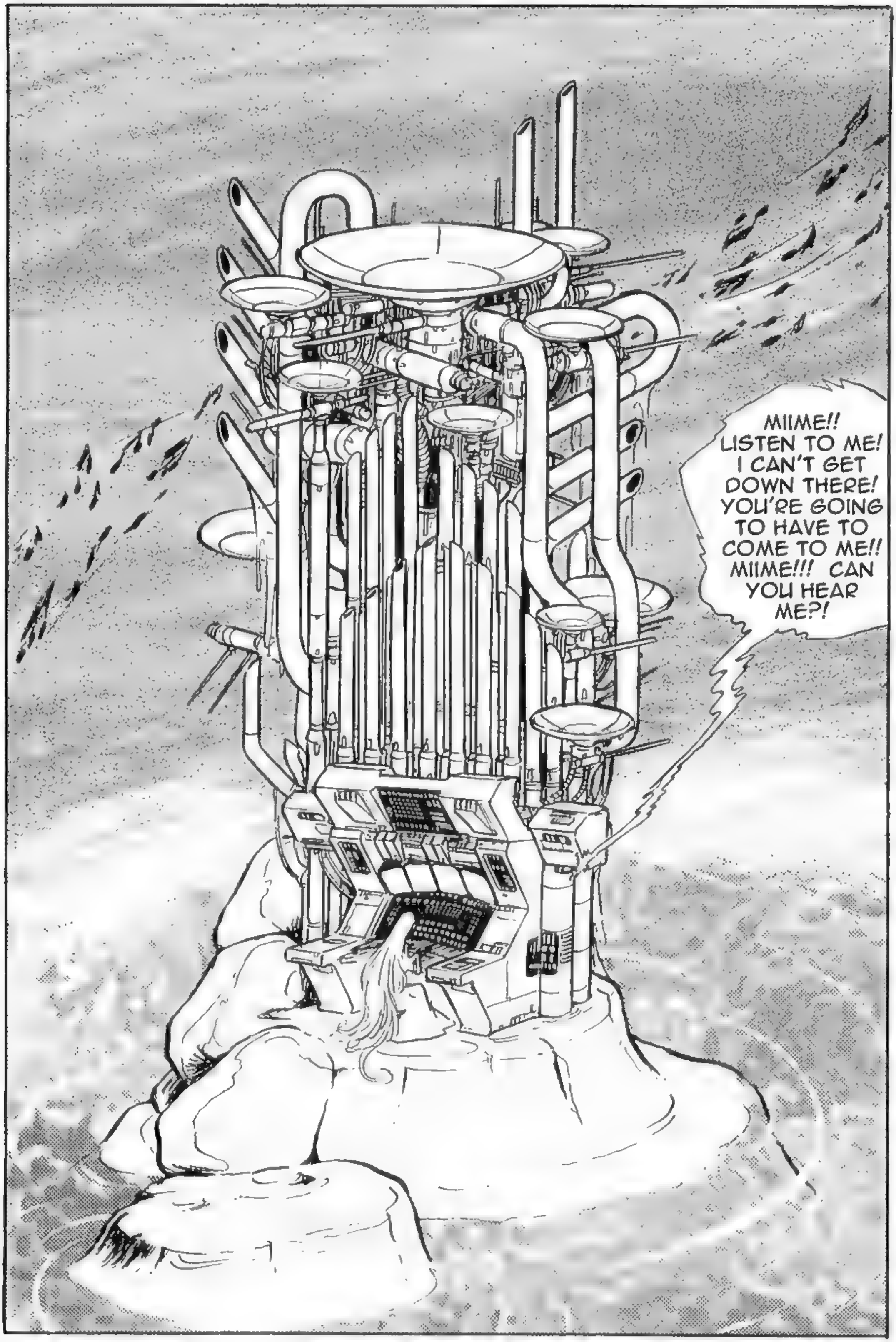
IT IS SAID, BY THOSE WHO SOMETHING OF THE HISTORY OF THE ELDER RACES, THAT AT ONE TIME THE PRINCE OF THE NIBELUNGEN, ALBERICH, WAS BRIEFLY MARRIED TO A FIERCE AND TEMPESTUOUS WARRIOR NAMED KREMHILD. A CHILD WAS BORN OF THAT UNION -- ONE THAT KNEW NEITHER LOVE NOR MERCY, WHO GREW UP TO BECOME A BLOODTHIRSTY FIGHTER. HIS NAME WAS HAGEN. HE HAD FEW COMPANIONS AND NO FRIENDS, FOR ALL WHO TRIED TO TAKE THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND HIM EVENTUALLY WOUND UP DEAD BY HIS HAND. THIS TALE MAY SEEM IRRELEVANT NOW, BUT WILL BE IMPORTANT LATER ....

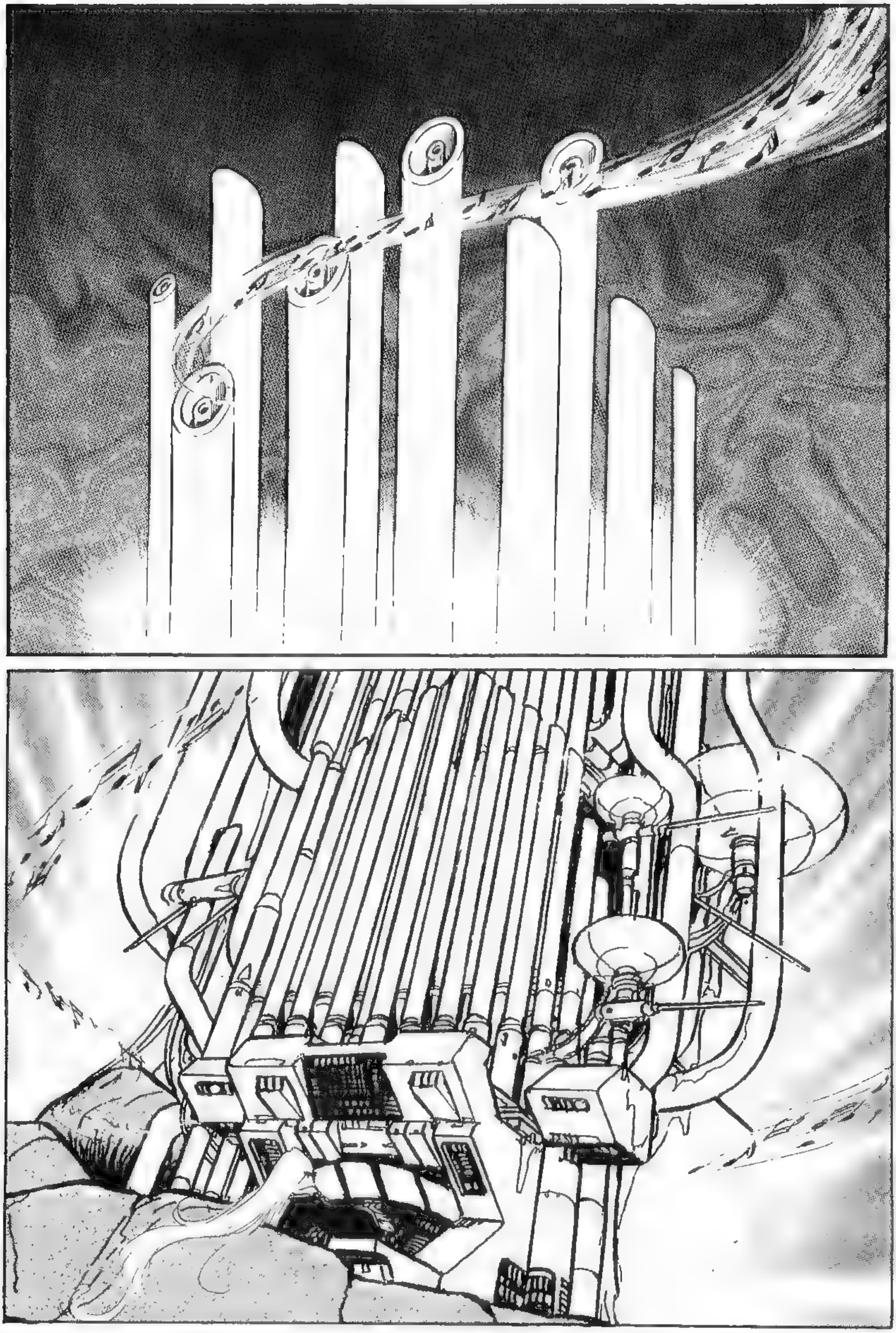
650 MILLION YEARS IN EXILE, AND HE'S NEVER CHANGED HIS TUNE.

SIGH

MIIME?! I THOUGHT I DECTECTED YOUR PRESENCE DOWN THERE! MIIME! I NEED YOUR HELP!! BRING ME THE RHINEGOLD!!!

MIIME, ANSWER ME! I AM PRINCE OF THE NIBELUNGEN! I AM YOUR LORD!!!


MIIME!! LISTEN TO ME! I CAN'T GET DOWN THERE! YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COME TO ME!! MIIME!!! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!



PLEASE DON'T BE SAD, MIIME.

WE THANK YOU FOR STAYING WITH US ... AND WE APPRECIATE WHAT YOU HAD TO GIVE UP TO DO THIS .... COME, MIIME ... COME WITH US INTO THE DEPTHS ....

LET US SHOW YOU ... THE RHINEGOLD.

AND WHEN I DO COME BACK, THE RHINEGOLD WILL BE MINE!!!

MIIME, I PROMISE YOU! I WILL BE BACK SOME DAY!!

NOTE – ERROR BY THE ARTIST/CREATOR! RHINE'S COSMIC ORGAN SHOULD STILL BE INTACT AT THIS TIME. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DESTROYED. SEE *THE RHINEGOLD*, VOLUME 1

PLEASE DON'T BE SAD, MIIME.

WE THANK YOU FOR STAYING WITH US ... AND WE APPRECIATE WHAT YOU HAD TO GIVE UP TO DO THIS .... COME, MIIME ... COME WITH US INTO THE DEPTHS ....

LET US SHOW YOU ... THE RHINEGOLD.

AND WHEN I DO COME BACK, THE RHINEGOLD WILL BE MINE!!!

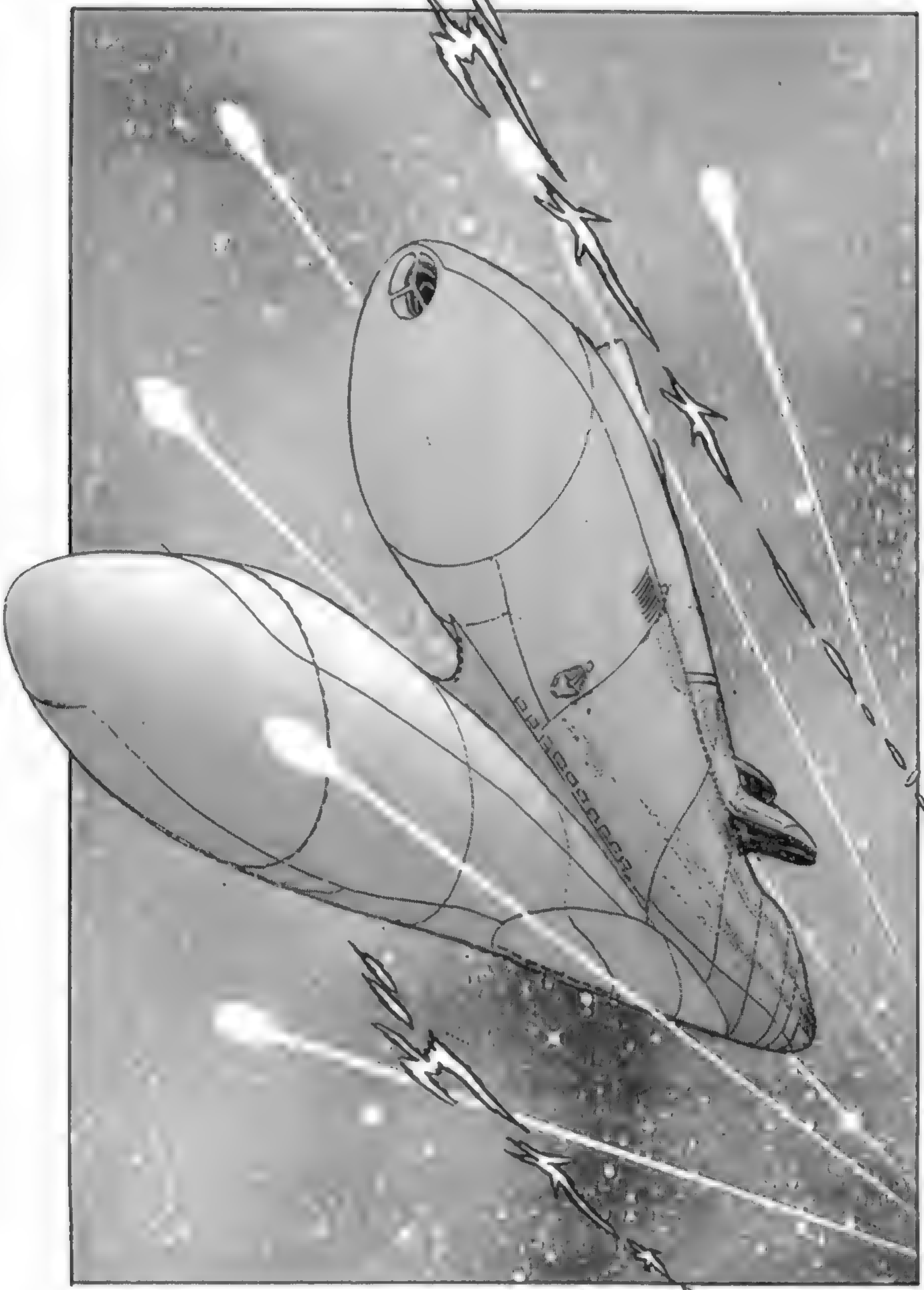
MIIME, I PROMISE YOU! I WILL BE BACK SOME DAY!!

THERE ARE WAYS! GENE SPLICING -- CLONING -- ANYTHING IF YOU WILL GET ME THE RHINEGOLD!!!

MIIME!! WE CAN THWART WOTAN'S CURSE ON US! YOU CAN HAVE YOUR OWN CHILD!!!

WOULD YOU ***LEAVE*** ALREADY, ALBERICH?! JEEZ! I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY LONGER!!!

NO WONDER MIIME LEFT HER BROTHER AND JOINED UP WITH US. THAT GUY HAS SOME SERIOUS ISSUES.

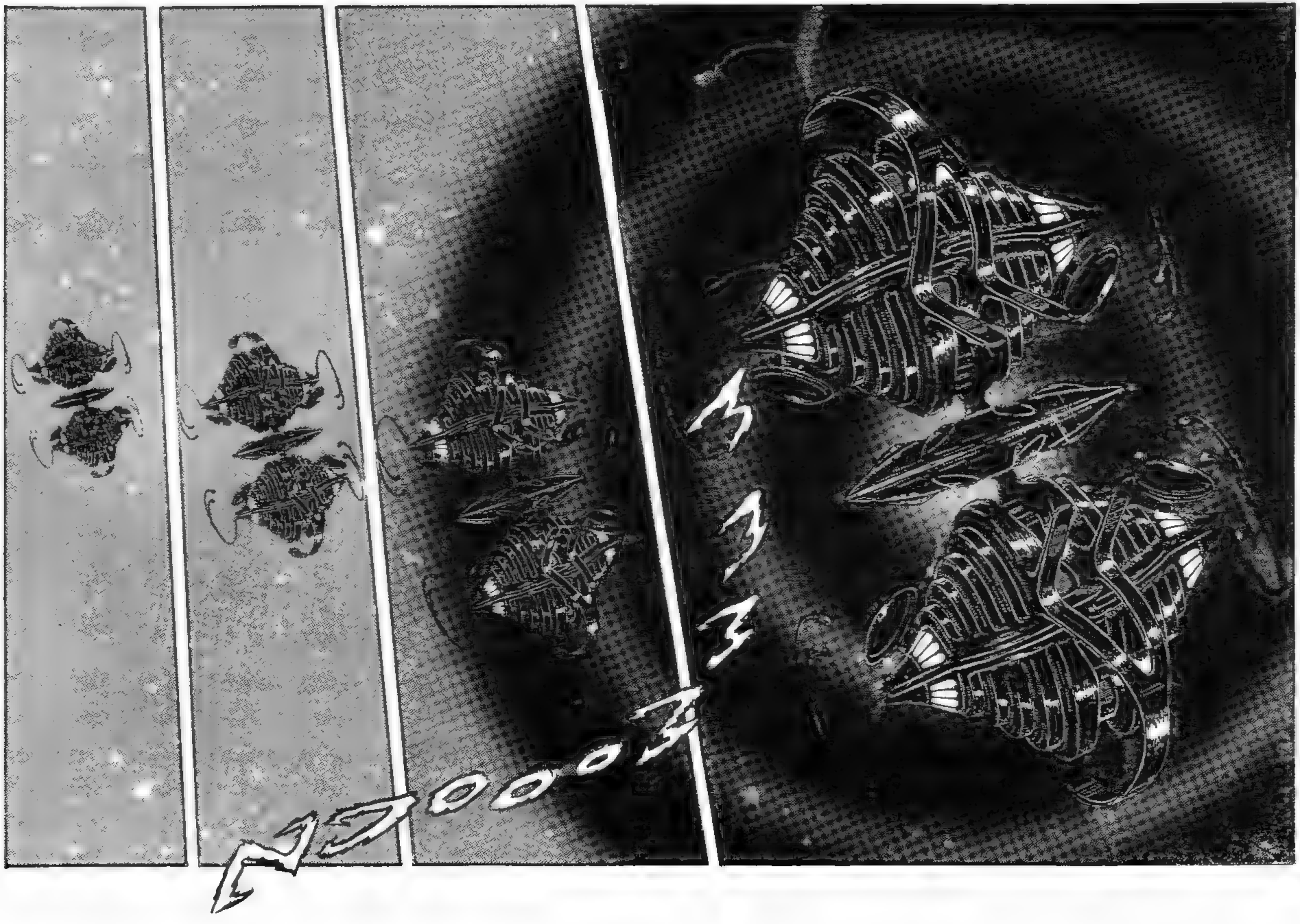


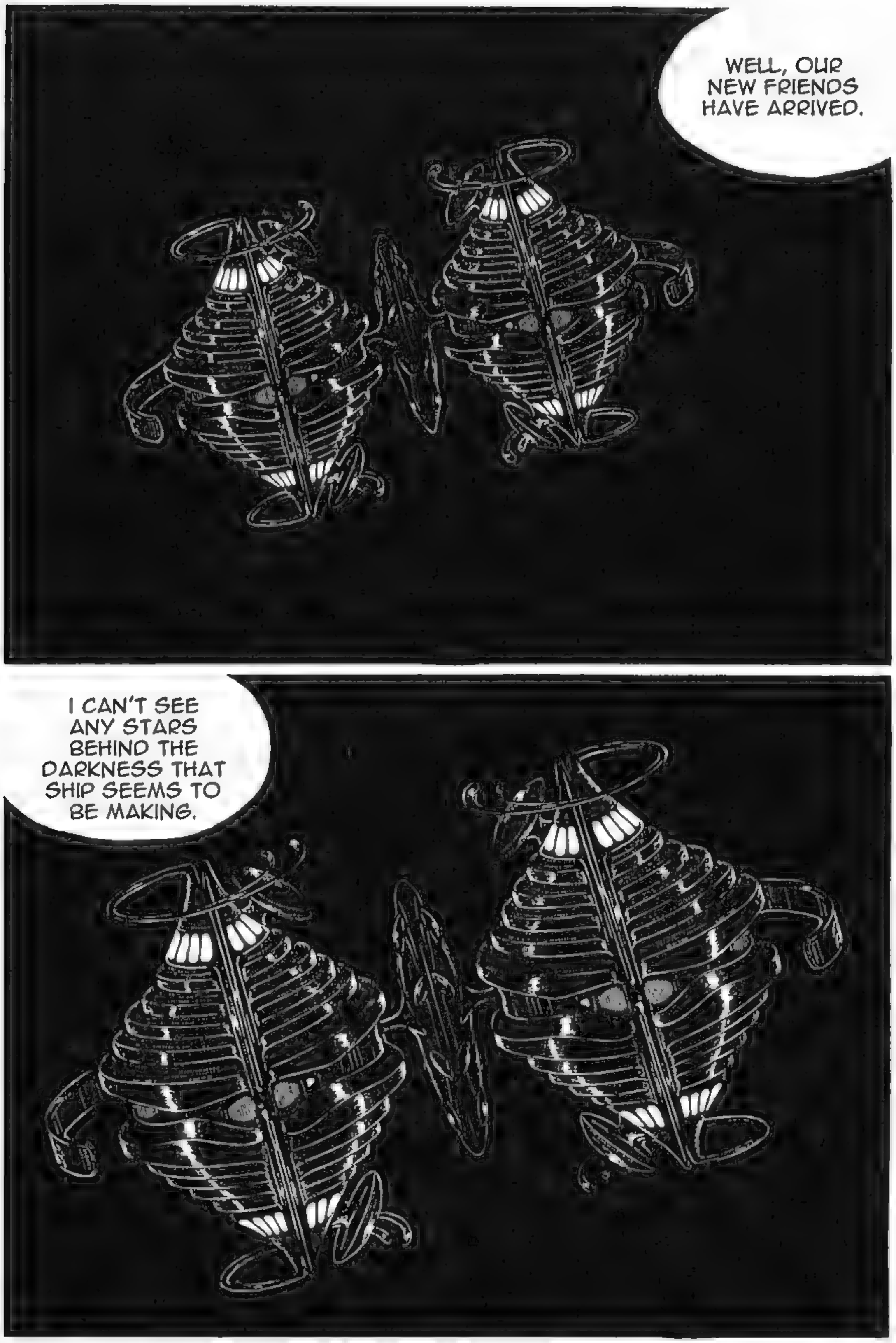
HAGEN?!! YOU WOULDN'T ....

MIIME!!! I'LL NOT PUT UP WITH SUCH INSOLENCE!!! I'LL LET HAGEN TAKE CARE OF GREAT HARLOCK!!!

HAGEN ... HAGEN ... WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE? OH, WELL -- GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH.

BYE-BYE, ALBERICH! THE PLEASURE'S *NOT* BEEN MINE!


AZOOOM
ZZZZ


WELL, OUR NEW FRIENDS HAVE ARRIVED.
I CAN'T SEE ANY STARS BEHIND THE DARKNESS THAT SHIP SEEMS TO BE MAKING.

WAIT ... THESE READINGS ARE INCREDIBLE!! THAT'S NOT JUST DARKNESS -- IT'S NULL SPACE!!! *NOTHING'S THERE!!!*

NOTHING? ABSOLUTELY NOTHING?!

AN ABSOLUTELY NULL VOID ... THAT SHIP IS CARVING A VOID ACROSS OUR UNIVERSE ....

NO STARS, NO GAS -- NOT EVEN A VACUUM. NOTHING.

CAN YOU IMAGINE A SHIP - OUR SHIP - *ANY* SHIP GETTING LOST IN THAT? NO REFERENCE POINTS TO FIND YOUR WAY BACK OUT?!

THIS IS TERRIBLE, PHANTOM ...

... CATCHES ANY INHABITED WORLD IN ITS WAKE -- IN THAT DARK PATH? INSTANT NOTHING!!!

THAT'S NOT THE WORST OF IT! WHAT IF THAT SHIP, OR WHATEVER IT IS ...

THIS IS WAY BEYOND ANY TECHNOLOGY IN OUR UNIVERSE. NOT EVEN THE METANOIDS ARE THIS ADVANCED.

IT'S GOT "VALHALLA" ALL OVER IT IN BIG BLOCK LETTERS A MILE HIGH. I THINK THIS IS THE REAL THREAT -- THE ONE WOTAN WAS HIDING FROM US.

THIS IS HOW HE'S GOING TO REGAIN CONTROL OF OUR UNIVERSE -- BY WIPING IT OUT AND STARTING OVER!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, HARLOCK?

FIRST OF ALL, THIS ISN'T WOTAN'S.

HE MAY THINK IT IS, BUT IT ISN'T. I THINK IT'S DUPED HIM, OR IS USING HIM ... A FORCE MORE POWERFUL THAN THE ANCIENT GODS. PERHAPS ... THE LORD OF DARKNESS HIMSELF.

YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO MIIME TOO MUCH.

THINK, TÖSHIRO. WOTAN'S STYLE IS OVERBLOWN, SHOWY, FUTILE. THIS ... IS EVIL INCARNATE.

I AGREE. I MEAN, MAKING A NULL VOID IN THE LAB IS ONE THING, BUT THIS ....

OF ALL THE THINGS THERE COULD BE IN THE SEA OF STARS, THIS IS THE LAST ONE I EVER EXPECTED TO TURN UP. IT'S ONE THING TO THEORIZE ABOUT SUCH THINGS, BUT TO ACTUALLY SEE IT FOR REAL ....

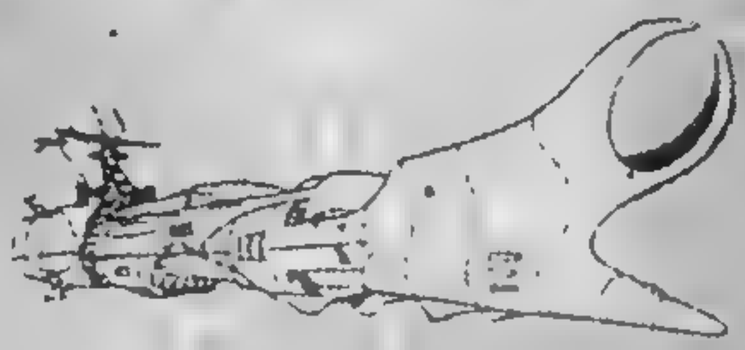
I THINK IT'S TIME I TELL THE SHIP TO SHED ITS EXTRA "SKIN."

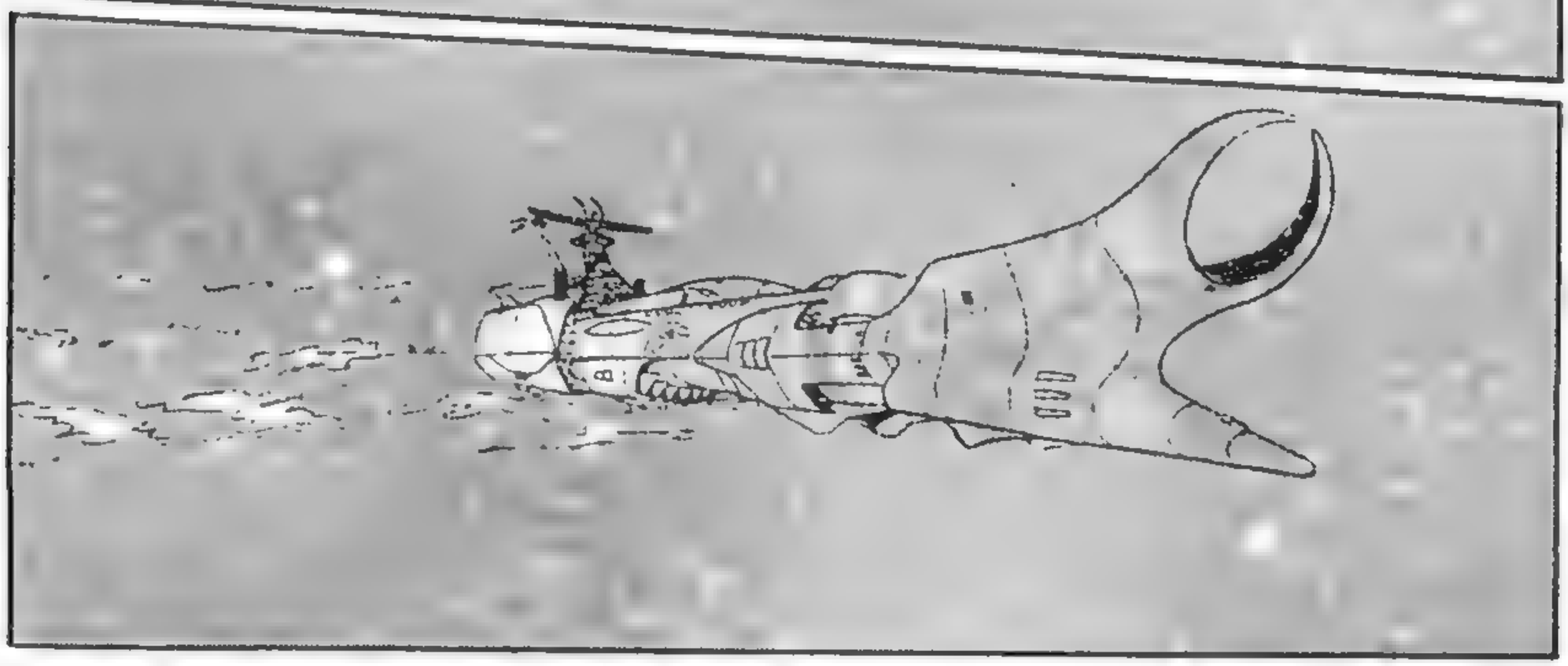
IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT THIS THING, WE NEED AS LITTLE HINDERING US AS POSSIBE.

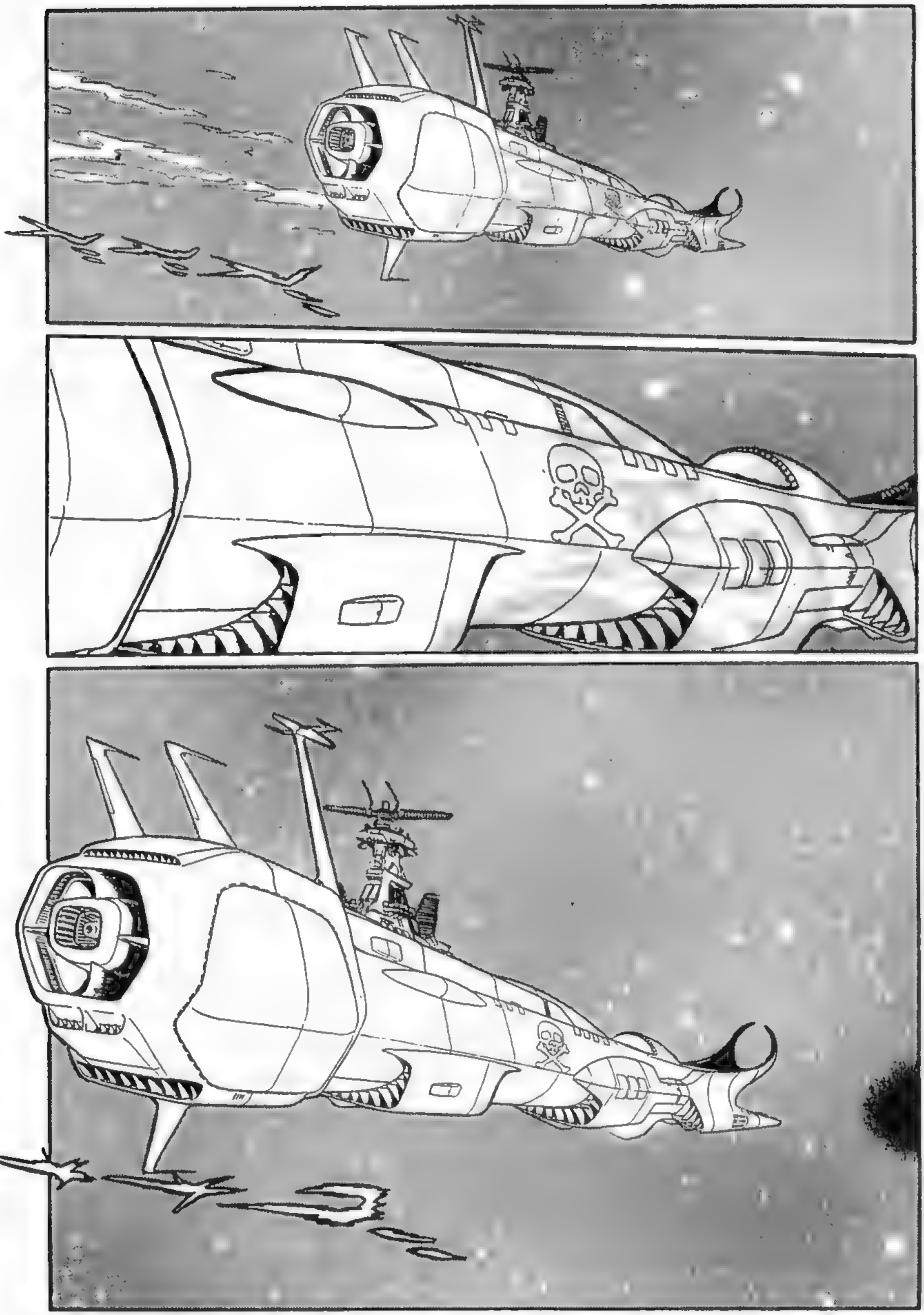
AMEN TO THAT!

NOT A BAD IDEA. BESIDES ... I'VE DECIDED THAT GOLD REALLY DOESN'T SUIT THE DEATH SHADOW.

ACTIVATING THE HULL CLEANING SYSTEM!







VERY WELL. I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT YOUR FATHERS ARE DEAD MEN. GOODBYE!

WHO'S THAT CREEP?

TURN ASIDE OR BE DESTROYED, INTRUDER!

ATTENTION, PIRATES' ISLE! I AM THE PRINCE OF THE NIBEL--

IGNORE HIM FOR NOW. HIS ROLE WILL BE GREATER ONCE YOU ARE GROWN.

HE IS NAUGHT BUT A SMALL PLAYER IN THIS PART OF YOUR DESTINY.

THE REST IS UP TO YOU -- PLEASE HURRY! I MUST SET SAIL IN 24 HOURS.

WHY?

TOCHIRO! THE DOCK SYSTEMS HAVE DONE ALL THEY CAN FOR ME.

WELL, THEN! UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN -- YOU BRATS!!! HA-HA-HA-HAH!!!

EVEN BRUNHILDE AND THE POWERS OF THE VALKYRIES WILL NOT BE ENOUGHT TO AVAIL AGAINST IT, UNLESS I AM THERE.

BECAUSE THE DEATH SHADOW IS FACING A GREAT EVIL, AND I MUST GO THERE TO HELP FIGHT IT.

ON ONE CONDITION: WE GO WITH YOU! OUR DADS ARE OUT THERE! WE WANT TO FIGHT WITH THEM!!!

THERE ARE THOSE WHOSE DESTINIES ARE FIXED AND IRREVOCABLE. OFTEN IT IS SAID THAT THE HAND OF FATE HAS BEEN CRUEL TO THEM, FOR THERE IS NO STRAYING FROM THE PATH THAT LIES BEFORE THEM. THIS IS WHY THE QUEEN EMERALDAS CRIES FOR YOUNG HARLOCK AND HIS FRIEND TOCHIRO OYAMA. IT CAN SENSE, BETTER THAN MOST, THE HARD ROAD THAT LIES AHEAD FOR THEM ....

Siegfried

Ring 52 ; The Cruiser *Phantasma*

OKAY, TOCHIRO, ONE STEP AT A TIME ... GET 50% POWER AND AT LEAST THE MAIN BATTERY, AND AFTER THAT ... WELL ...

24 HOURS TO FINE-TUNE THE ENGINE OF THE *QUEEN EMERALDAS*? THERE'S JUST NO WAY IT CAN BE DONE -- WHICH MEANS I NEED TO START WORK NOW!

THERE COMES A TIME WHEN A MAN MUST FIGHT,
EVEN THOUGH IT IS KNOWN HE WILL LOSE.
THERE COMES A TIME WHEN A SON MUST LEAVE,
EVEN THOUGH HIS PATH BACK IS BLOCKED.

- FROM "SONG OF DESTINY"
AUTHOR UNKNOWN

FOR MANY, SUCH TIMES COME TOO SOON. SUCH IS THE CASE WITH YOUNG HARLOCK AND TOCHIRO OYAMA ....

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS I WAITED FOR YOU ... FOR BOTH YOU AND EMERALDAS.

TOCHIRO! I HAVE FAITH IN YOU! ONLY YOU CAN DO THIS!!!

THOUSANDS OF YEARS?

COULD YOU NOT SENSE IT, TOO?

WHEN YOU TOUCHED ME ON METABLOODY, I KNEW YOU WERE THE ONE WHO WOULD BRING ME BACK TO LIFE.

SHE ONCE TOLD US SHE CAME FROM THE NIBELUNGEN. THEY ARE VERY OLD, AND HAVE LOTS OF KNOWLEDGE.

YOU MUST BE AS OLD AS MIIME. SHE'S A LOT OLDER THAN SHE LOOKS.

FREYA! WE SAID WE'D LOOK AFTER HER! WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE HER WITH US.

SHE MADE FRIENDS WITH DAD, AND AGREED TO BE OUR TUTOR.

TOCHIRO, WHY DON'T YOU GET STARTED? THE SOONER WE CAN GET THERE AND JOIN THE FIGHT, THE BETTER.

THIS SHIP HAS FULL MEDICAL FACILITIES. IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT.

OH, WELL -- AS EMERALDAS SAID, BEST TO JUST JUMP IN! HAND ME THAT SPANNER, HARLOCK.

WHERE TO BEGIN? WHERE TO LOOK? THIS ISN'T YOUR TYPICAL HUMAN-BUILT STARSHIP ENGINE! I MEAN SOME OF THE BASICS ARE THE SAME, BUT THE TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED ...

THEY ARE MANY LIFETIMES AND MANY RINGS OF TIME AWAY FROM HERE, YOUNG ONE. BEST TO FOCUS ON THE PRESENT AND THE TASK AT HAND.

YOU KNOW, I WISH I COULD MEET THE PEOPLE THAT BUILD THIS SHIP! THEY'D KNOW WHAT TO DO!

NOT IN YOUR PAST ... NOT IN THIS BENT RING OF TIME ... AND NOT IN ANY TIME. THEY ARE GONE ... LONG GONE ... AND NOW I HAVE ONLY YOU, MISTRESS.

ARE YOU SAYING THEY DON'T EXIST ANYMORE?

YES, MISTRESS. YOU ARE THE REASON I WAS CREATED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

SO ... ARE YOU SAYING YOU LIVE ... FOR ME?

... AND THERE I WAITED ... ALONE ... WITH NO ONE FOR ANY KIND OF COMPANY. I WAS SO ALONE. WHEN THIS RING OF TIMES WAS BENT, I HAD HOPE ... BUT I WAS STILL ALONE ....

A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, I CAME TO YOUR GALAXY ... TO THE PLACE WHERE I WAS DESTINED TO MEET YOU SOMEDAY ...

NO, MAETEL ... BUT I AM ANCIENT BEYOND MEASURE. I WAS BUILT WITH THE ABILITY TO SEE ACROSS THE INFINITE EXPANSES OF THE RINGS OF TIME ... AND I SAW YOU BOTH ...

BUT ... BUT WE'RE STILL IN OUR YOUTHS! EVEN IN OUR RIGHT PLACE AND TIME, NEITHER OF US IS 1000 YEARS OLD!

I KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH ... AND WILL MAY, MIGHT, AND WILL COME ... THE MEETINGS AND PARTINGS ... THE JOY AND THE PAIN ... I KNOW AND FEEL IT ALL ... FOR I AM THE QUEEN EMERALDAS.

... IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS, MY FATE - OR PERHAPS MY CURSE - IS THE ABILITY TO SEE ALL OF LIFE ACROSS ALL OF TIME, AND IN ALL OF ITS INFINITE VARIATIONS.

AS YOU BOTH WELL KNOW, LIFESPANS CAN VARY WIDELY FROM SPECIES TO SPECIES, AND EVEN AMONG INDIVIDUAL BEINGS -- YET ALL ARE THE MEREST SPECKS ...

PERHAPS THAT IS WHY BEINGS SHOULD VALUE THE RELATIONSHIPS THEY MAKE. THEY ARE THE MILEPOSTS OF DESTINY.

WHAT?!

SO YOUR MOTHER ONCE SAID. SHE WAS ONCE AN INCREDIBLE PERSON--

MOTHER ...

SO SAD ... AND SO HORRIBLE ....

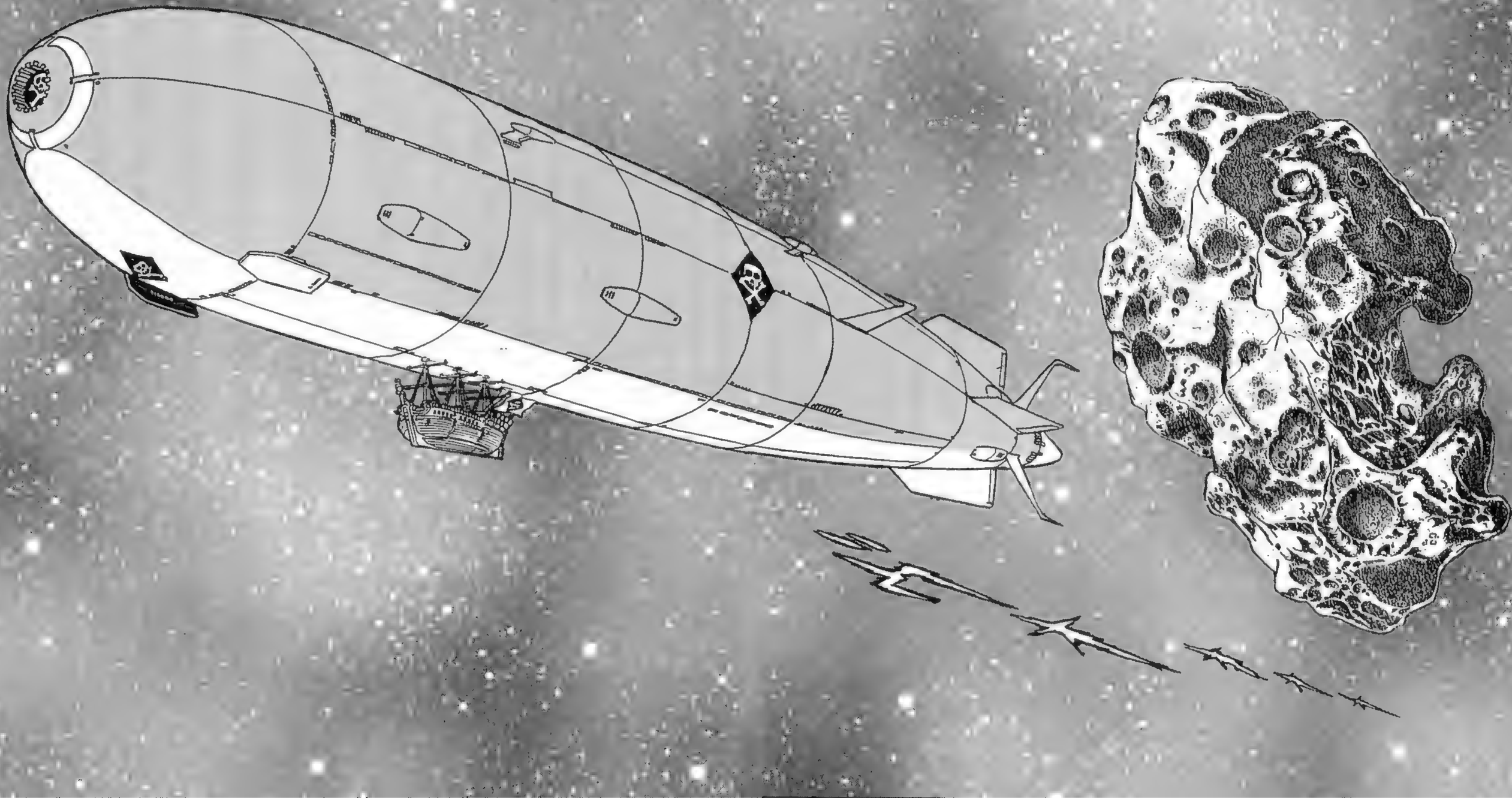
ALL THAT YOU HAVE HEARD ABOUT HER ... THE WOMAN THAT WAS ONCE YUKINO YAYOI ... IS TRUE. SHE WAS AS INCREDIBLE AND AS LOVING AS THE TALES SAY.

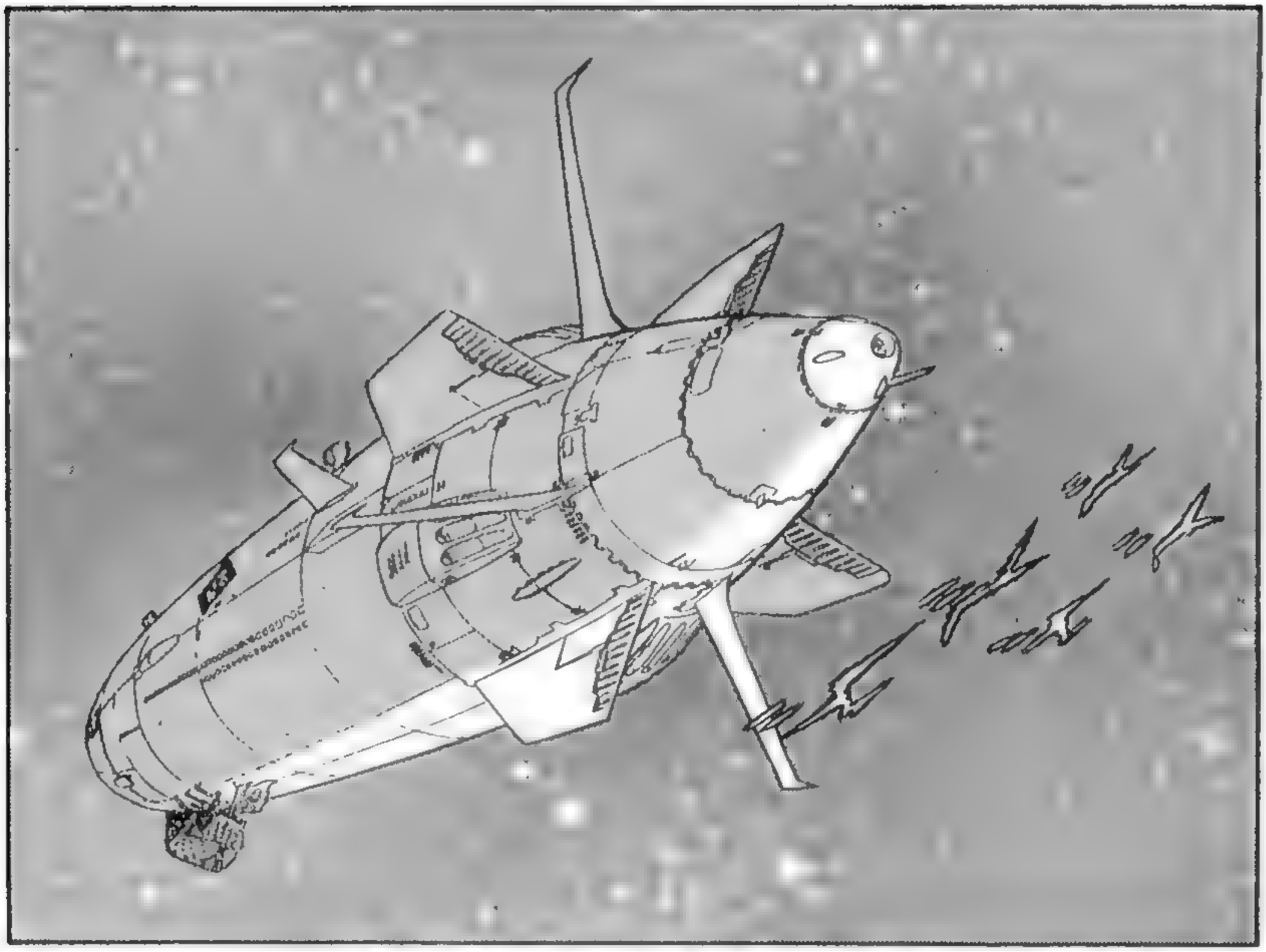
YOU KNEW OUR MOTHER? AS SHE WAS?!

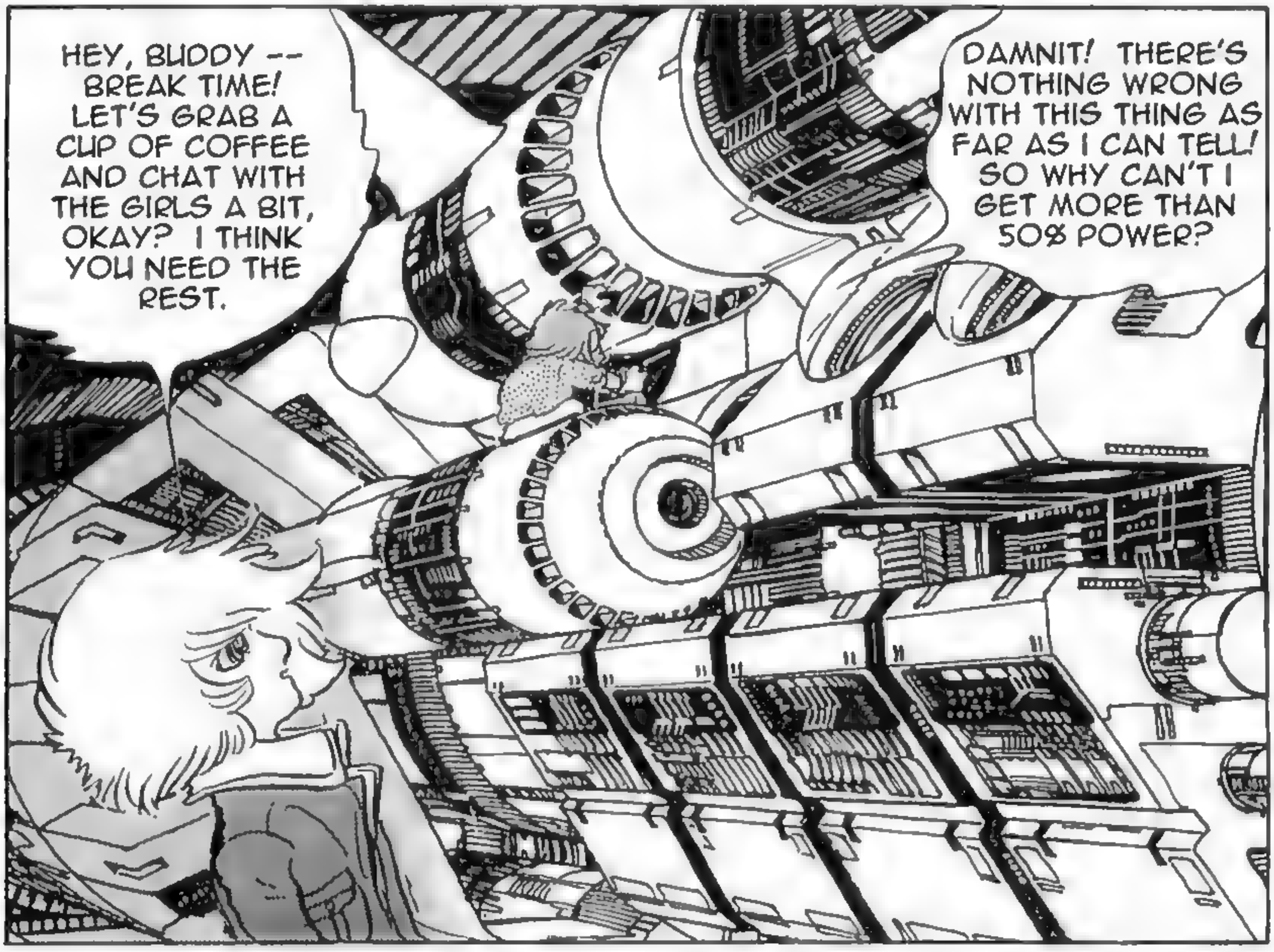
CHERISH THAT BRIEF TIME THAT YOU BOTH KNEW YOUR REAL MOTHER. THAT PART OF HER STILL LIVES IN THE BOTH OF YOU.

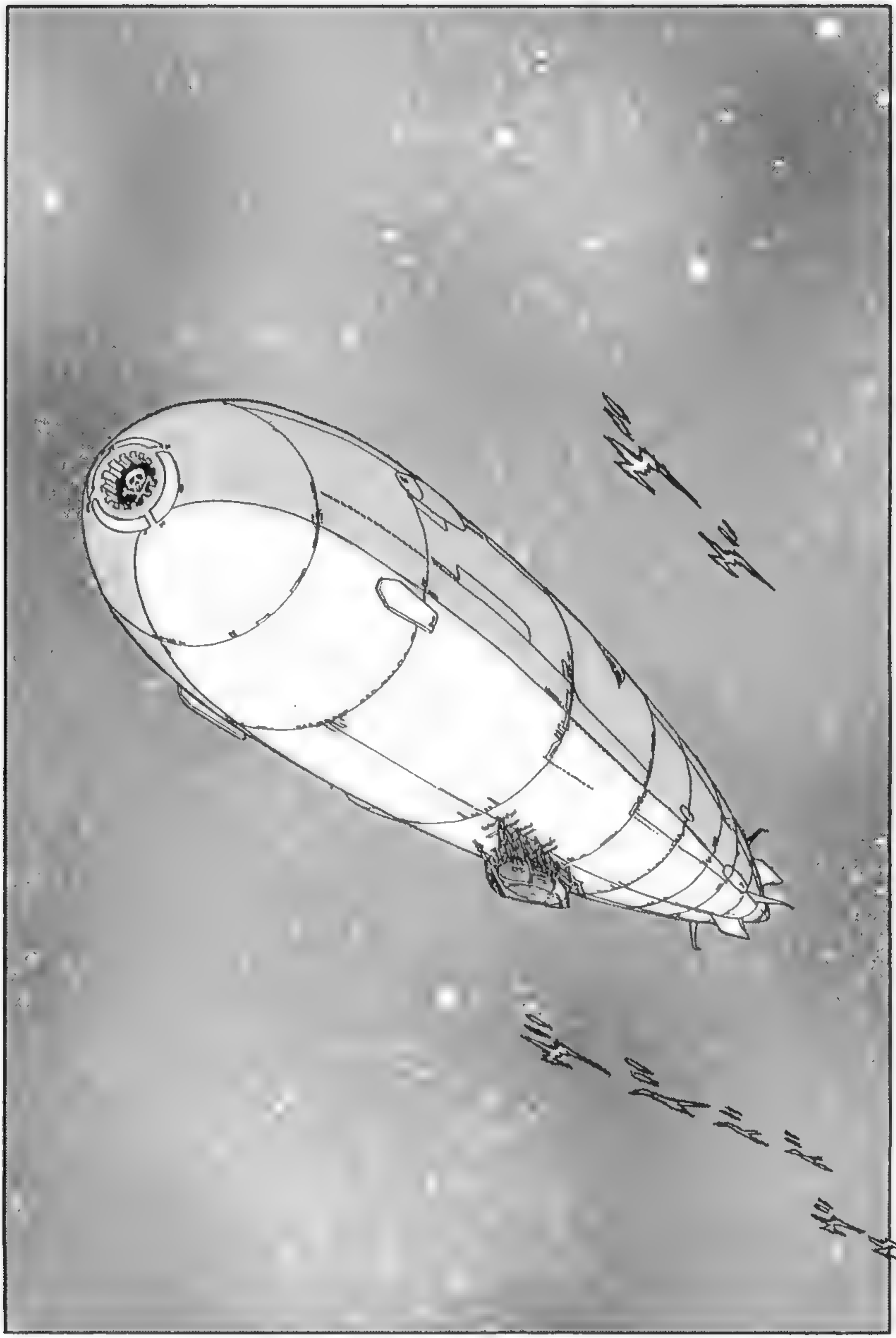
PLEASE ...

PLEASE TELL US. WE ONLY KNOW OF WHAT SHE BECAME. WE LONG TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE WOMAN SHE ONCE WAS.






HEY, BUDDY -- BREAK TIME! LET'S GRAB A CUP OF COFFEE AND CHAT WITH THE GIRLS A BIT, OKAY? I THINK YOU NEED THE REST.
DAMNIT! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THIS THING AS FAR AS I CAN TELL! SO WHY CAN'T I GET MORE THAN 50% POWER?



60 METERS IN DIAMETER, AT LEAST, AND 5 - NO, 6 IN THICKNESS! AND ONLY ONE OPENING! I WONDER WHAT IT'S FOR?

I WISH YOU COULD! TAKE THIS CHAMBER, FOR INSTANCE. I'VE NEVER SEEN THE LIKE OF IT ANYWHERE!

I MEAN, THE SAME BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR A WARP ENGINE APPLY NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE.

SIGH EVEN IF IT WORKS THE SAME AS OUR ENGINES, THE LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATION IS ALMOST UNREAL!

HEY, BREAK TIME!

YES, TOCHIRO. I WISH I COULD BE OF MORE HELP. I CANNOT EVEN DESCRIBE THE ALLOYS FROM WHICH I AM MADE.

BE CAREFUL, TOCHIRO!

OOHHH! IT OPENED WHEN I TOUCHED IT!!

TOCHIRO!!!

WHOA-- WHAT TH--?

CLANG!!!

HEY!!!

I AM NOT ADRIFT IN OPEN SPACE WITHOUT A SUIT ... THIS IS SOME KIND OF VIRTUAL PROJECTION ... IT CAN'T BE REAL!!!

IT'S COOL, THOUGH. IT'S REALLY COOL!!! AND THE VIEW! GOOD GOD, SO CLEAR! IT'S ... IT'S LIKE I CAN SEE FOREVER! ALL ACROSS SPACE AND BACK ALONG THE PATHS OF STARLIGHT, BACK INTO THE DEPTHS OF TIME ITSELF!! INCREDIBLE!!!

RRR?!

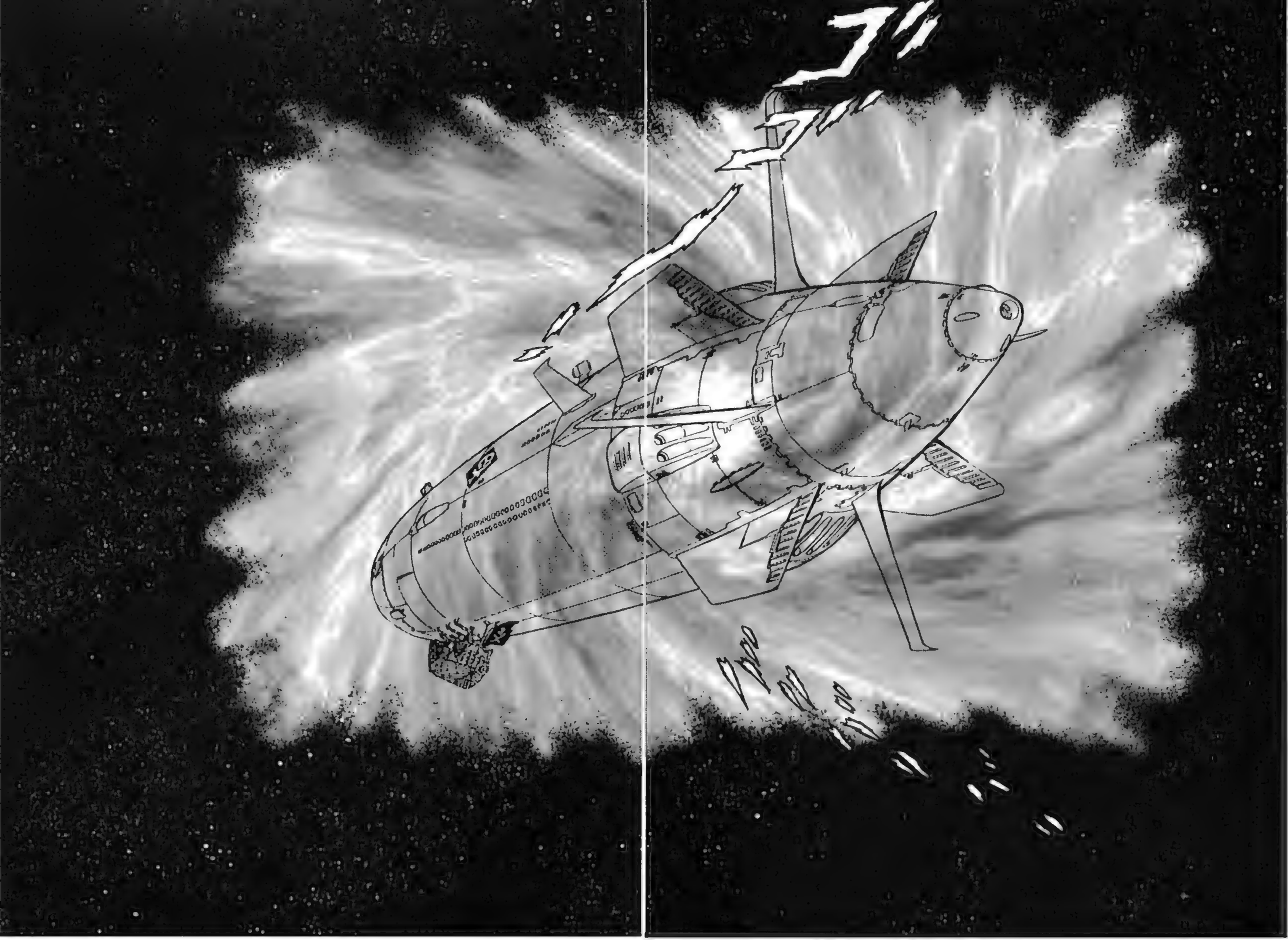
...

HUH?

TOCHIRO HAS FALLEN INTO MY TEMPORAL MATRIX. HE SEEMS TO HAVE FOUND SOMETHING IN THERE.

FIGURES. IF ANYONE COULD GET INTO TROUBLE, THAT BOY COULD.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?!



ESTIMATED TIME OF ARRIVAL IS SIX HOURS, FIFTY-THREE MINUTES ... BUT THE CRUISER PHANTASMA WILL REACH THEM BEFORE WE CAN.

NOW WARPING TO THE CURRENT LOCATION OF THE DEATH SHADOW, MISTRESS.

PERHAPS WE'RE TOO SMALL FOR IT TO TAKE ANY NOTICE OF US -- BUT YOU KNOW ...

I'VE TRIED SIGNALING IT EVERY WAY I KNOW. NOTHIN'!

HUH?! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU DON'T MEAN -- AN INVASION? FROM ANOTHER GALAXY?!

... I HAVE THE SUSPICION THAT THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST ONE. THERE'S GOING TO BE MORE. LOTS MORE ....

... IT'S THE SAME FROM WHICH THE METANOIDS APPEAR TO HAVE COME.

CONSIDER: IT CAME ON THE SAME BEARING AS DID THAT OTHER SHIP. ALSO ...

NOTE: I CUT THE PAGE-AND-A-HALF OF THE EMAIL MESSAGES TO THE *QUEEN EMERALDAS* FROM SHINCHOSA WEBSITE READERS IN 1998, FOR THE SAKE OF ADVANCING THE STORY.

I SEE IT TOO, TOSHIRO -- AND WHAT'S THAT AT ITS CENTER?

IS IT MY IMAGINATION, OR IS THAT SHIP STARTING TO SRETCH?

I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THIS ONE BIT.

THAT NEW LIGHT AT THE CENTER WHERE IT STRETCHED OUT -- IS THAT A LURE? OR WHAT?

I DUNNO, HARLOCK -- BUT IF WE DON'T GET OFF OUR ASSES SOON AND DO SOMETHING, NOTHING'S GOING TO STOP THAT INVASION YOU FEAR.

PHANTASMA ... IT IS AN ANCIENT WORD AMONG HUMANS. IT MEANS THE SAME THING REGARDLESS OF NATION, CULTURE, OR LANGUAGE: "MONSTER" OR "MONSTROUS CREATURE." LIKE THE SAILORS OF OLD, WHO FIRST ENCOUNTERED SUCH MONSTERS ON THE OCEANS OF EARTH, GREAT HARLOCK AND DR. OYAMA HAVE STUMBLED ACROSS A PHANTASMA CROSSING THE GALACTIC RIM. IT WAS NOT CHANCE OR LUCK THAT BROUGHT ABOUT THIS ENCOUNTER. IT IS THE SAME PATH OF DESTINY THAT WILL SHAPE THE LIFE OF THEIR SONS. WOTAN IS ABOUT TO PLAY HIS TRUMP CARD AGAINST THE DEATH SHADOW ... AND SHOULD IT FALL, THEN ALL OF KNOWN SPACE WILL BE PLUNGED INTO A NEW AND ETERNAL DARKNESS ....

■ To be concluded in Siegfried Volume 3

Attention !
Ce manga est publié dans son sens de lecture original (de droite à gauche).

Ici, vous êtes donc à la FIN

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Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

Originaire de Leipzig, en Allemagne, il se détache de l'opéra classique et invente les "drames musicaux". Il consacre un quart de siècle à la composition de sa tétralogie "L'anneau des Nibelungen" dans laquelle il réunit différents contes germaniques, et il fit construire le Théâtre de Bayreuth pour la représentation de ses œuvres. Encore aujourd'hui a lieu tous les ans le Festival de Bayreuth.

Leiji Matsumoto (1938)

Akira Matsumoto, de son vrai nom, naît à Kurume, dans le département de Fukuoka. Il dessine des manga dès l'école primaire et c'est en 1954, à l'âge de quinze ans, qu'il remporte le prix de la revue Manga shônen avec "Mitsubachi no bôken" (Les aventures d'une abeille) et effectue ses premiers pas dans le milieu professionnel. Il publie par la suite des histoires dans Shôjo ou le Mainichi shôgakusei shinbun seibuban (édition occidentale du Journal Mainichi des écoliers). À sa sortie du lycée, il se rend au mont-de-piété pour y vendre des disques et un électrophone trouvés dans la rue qui financeront son voyage pour s'installer à Tokyo. Après "Sexaroïd" et "Yojigen sekai" (Le monde quadridimensionnel), il obtient le succès en 1972 avec "Otoko oidon" (Je suis un homme !) et remporte le prix culturel des éditions Kôdansha. Suivent des titres comme "Uchû senkan Yamato" (Yamato, le cuirassé de l'espace), "Uchû kaizoku captain Harlock" (Capitaine Albator, le pirate de l'espace), "Ginga tetsudô 999" (Galaxy Express 999) qui sont tous de formidables hits adaptés en dessins animés pour la télévision et le cinéma, et en particulier, le film de "Galaxy Express 999", numéro un des entrées en salle pour l'année 1979. À côté de ses activités de mangaka, Leiji Matsumoto est président du conseil d'administration du Young Astronauts Club-Japan et directeur du Conseil Central de Liaison des Associations pour la Jeunesse. À l'automne 2001, il est décoré de la Médaille d'Honneur avec Ruban Violet.